

East Meadow U.F.S.D.

Memo to: **Leon J. Campo, Superintendent of Schools**
From: **Cindy Munter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: January 19, 2017

Barnum Woods:

Barnum Woods held its annual “Hoops for Heart” event. Students practiced their basketball skills, learned about the hazards of smoking, good nutrition, and the cardiovascular system. In addition, the students raised \$7,203.00 for the American Heart Association. Our top fundraisers this year were Drew Nadler, who raised \$1,165.00, Mathias Osback raised \$680.00 and Gabriel Newman raised \$515.00. Parker Goldstein and Damon McMurtry also each raised \$365.00. Drew Nadler was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his tenacious efforts. During Drew’s three years of participation in “Hoops for Heart” he was able to raise over \$3,500.00 on his own. 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.

Barnum’s students performed three concerts at Barnum Woods and one final concert on the stage at Woodland Middle School on December 6. Under Ms. Coleman’s direction, the chorus sang six beautiful songs ranging from Fa Una Canzona by Orazio Vecchi, one of the most popular Italian madrigals, to holiday classics. 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 *The Silver Scepter*, *Kitty Hawk March*, *Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!* and a rousing rendition of *Jingle Bells!* The fifth grade orchestra also contributed a wonderful performance, under the direction of Barnum’s new orchestra teacher, Ms. Mander. The orchestra pieces performed were *Impulse*, *Peace Round* and everyone’s favorite, *Bohemian Stomp*.

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 8, 2017. Congratulations to the following participants from Barnum Woods:

Peter Klewicki	Band
Andrew Nadler	Band
Marcello Romano	Band
Evan Weinstein	Band
Kaylie Epstein	Orchestra
Emily Lepore	Orchestra

Brady Hohlman	Chorus
Sasha Klepner	Chorus
Matthew Kohl	Chorus
Halle Lara	Chorus
Arianna Maniscalco	Chorus
Gianna Petrizzo	Chorus
Nima Vanterpool	Chorus

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

Bowling Green:

Congratulations to the following students whose artwork has been entered into the Regional Level of the New York State PTA's Reflections Contest: Dance: Leah Terriberry; Multimedia: Benjamin Spano and Juliet Cimaglia; Photography: Rosanna DeStefano and Michael Tallon; Literature-Intermediate Level: Lauren Henning and Valerie Cisneros; Literature-Primary Level: Allison Angell and Anay Kaul; Visual Arts-Intermediate Level: Francesca Remy and Giuliana Palmeri; Visual Arts-Primary Level: Ella Gannon and Catalina Gavidia. The artwork will also be featured in the East Meadow Public Library during the month of February.

Mrs. Abshire's fifth grade students at Bowling Green participated in "Hope for the Holidays." This year's theme was "Do Your Part...Warm a Heart." The students raised almost \$1,500 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 monies 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 23. 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. Goldstein, Mrs. Triolo, Ms. Pothos, Ms. Wiking, Mrs. Schneider, and students from Mrs. Abshire class, gifts were purchased for forty-eight children. The gifts were brought back to the school, where they were sorted and wrapped. 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 Family Fun baskets filled with a board game and snacks 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 help make the world a brighter place!

On Friday, December 2, members of the Bowling Green Kiwanis Club created forty-five ornaments for the C.A.S.A. Christmas Tree. The members glued colored popsicle sticks together to form triangles and decorated them with rhinestones and gold stars. Strings were added so the ornaments could be hung on the Christmas tree during the C.A.S.A. tree lighting ceremony.

Bowling Green's parents, students, teachers, and administrators enjoyed the first Spirit Night at Barnes and Noble in Carle Place on Monday, December 5. The evening opened with Bowling

Green's orchestra playing for the guests. The students enjoyed listening to the guest readers throughout the evening. They also had fun making crafts at the activity centers and were thrilled to see their artwork displayed in the store. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the evening a fun night.

The PTA Holiday Boutique was held on Tuesday, December 6, Thursday, December 8, and Friday, December 9. A wide variety of items were available. The students enjoyed the opportunity to select special gifts for family members and friends. Parent volunteers helped the children with their purchases. Thank you to all of the volunteers.

The Bowling Green Winter Concert was held at Clarke High School on Tuesday, December 13. Bowling Green's orchestra, band, and chorus, under the direction of their teachers, Mrs. Bean, Mr. Henderson, Ms. Buckley, and Mr. Ross, performed a variety of musical tunes that captivated the parents and faculty.

The Viscardi Ambassadors from the Henry Viscardi School visited with Bowling Green's fifth grade students on Wednesday, December 14, to present a Disability Awareness Day. The Viscardi Ambassadors, is a club of boys and girls that visit area schools and talk to the students to hopefully break down the barriers that exist between the able-bodied world and the physically challenged. The ambassadors presented PowerPoint presentations about themselves showing their interests, their dreams, information about their disability, family life, and experiences at Viscardi. After each presentation, the fifth graders enjoyed speaking with the ambassadors and learning more about their interests.

On Thursday, December 15, students in Ms. Goldstein's, Mrs. Batanchiev's, and Ms. Roman's ENL classes, and Ms. Keenan's Reading classes participated in the Happy Project. Students wrote personal narratives about what happiness means to them, including spending time with family, playing sports, and helping others in need. They recorded their voices and danced to the song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams.

On Friday, December 16, 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 Olivia Lopez from Ms. Bilianis' class, who correctly spelled the word "oxygen." The runner-up was Hailey He from Mrs. Kane-Pesant's class.

On Tuesday, January 17, Jared Campbell visited Bowling Green to encourage the students to feel "AWESOME" about themselves. His shows keep the students engaged by having them sing along and reinforce positive character messages.

During the week of January 23, Bowling Green's students will participate in Imagine That! Murals. The students and art teachers will work with Joyce Raimondo to create a mural for the breezeway.

McVey:

The students at McVey took part in a school-wide craft project during the month of December. The project, which was spearheaded by the Human Dignity Committee, encouraged students to create

scratch-off bookmarks in order to spread holiday cheer. The children scratched a design on the bookmarks and attached a note to the back of such. The finished products were donated to the East Meadow Sunrise Assisted Living and the Lexie Bean Foundation.

The school-wide Spelling Bee created quite a buzz at McVey! On December 9, students in grades one through five participated in classroom spelling bees. Each class named one child a winner and on January 6, the twenty top finishers in grades four and five participated in the school-wide Championship Spelling Bee. The competition was fierce and continued for many rounds. In the end, fifth grader Zyad Mohamed was crowned the champion and fifth grade student, Maya Del Rosario, was named the runner-up. Zyad will represent McVey at the Scripps National Spelling Bee's Regional Competition at Hofstra University on February 5.

On December 14, McVey held their annual Winter Concert at East Meadow High School. The evening included outstanding performances by the Advanced Orchestra, the Advanced Band and the Concert Chorus. The children delighted the crowd with the sound of their instruments and their voices. The festive event included a sing along with the audience.

Meadowbrook:

On Wednesday, January 18, Jared Campbell, an award winning singer/songwriter visited students at Meadowbrook Elementary School. His goal is to reach students through the power of music with songs written about some of the most crucial elements to living out your life with purpose. His message focuses on overcoming obstacles, anti-bullying, respect, leadership and having an amazing outlook on life. For the primary children, Jared spoke about making friends and how to be a super hero every day. The students sang about how super hero's do what's right and fix what's wrong. In the upper grades, Jared shared with the students how they can change the atmosphere through compassion and kindness. Mr. Campbell believes in "Finding the White Line" and how each of us has that special person in our life that guides us through difficult times. Students and teachers alike, enthusiastically enjoyed Mr. Campbell's unique and genuine presentation style.

On Monday, January 23, Meadowbrook PTA and SEPTA will join together to attend a presentation on the 2017 Bond Referendum. Additionally, workshops will be presented regarding differentiation in general education and special education, Computer Technology, and our new STEM program. Parents will have an opportunity to experience lessons, gain a student's perspective, and understand how subjects are taught. Meadowbrook teachers are truly excited to present this unique evening to parents.

Fourth and fifth grade students are offered the opportunity to join Meadowbrook's Math Club. Club members work collaboratively to create an "I Spy Numbers" bulletin board. Students are encouraged to select a topic of personal interest for their "I Spy" collages. This bulletin board allows club members to promote mathematics in a creative way! Students apply their mathematical skills through authentic methods, as they play a variety of games in small cooperative groups, such as: Tri-Ominos, Yahtzee, Katamino, and Rack-O. The students thoroughly enjoy putting their mathematical minds to work in groups during the Math Quiz Game Show hosted by our math club advisor, Ms. O'Malley.

The Meadowbrook Sports Club will spend the month of January focusing on building foundational skills for bowling and basketball. This club provides students with countless opportunities to work together toward a common goal; participation in these activities affords club members the

opportunity to work as teams to problem solve and promote a positive learning environment. Club advisor, Mr. Olenik, focuses on good sportsmanship and building self-confidence. These skills will set them up for success in many other areas of their lives as they create lasting memories. The students at Meadowbrook look forward to attending Sports Club each year!

Parkway:

Parkway's Kammerman Fund recently 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 more 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 there was one winner from each grade. Kindergarten through second grade winners watched a movie of their choice and enjoyed popcorn and juice. Winners from grades three through five had extra gym time and juice and cookies. Everyone enjoyed participating in our first 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. On a weekly basis, there will be a specific theme that supports this cause. Students are invited to wear favorite team jerseys during one of the theme days. Our goal is to collect \$2,000.

Clarke Middle School:

On Tuesday, December 6, W. T. Clarke Middle School's seventh grade students walked the perimeter of our school for one symbolic mile, while each carrying a single gallon of water. Students were invited to raise money to donate to Water for South Sudan, Inc. whose mission is to drill wells that will bring much needed clean water to villages in Sudan. The seventh grade students have been immersed in reading the book, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, and this challenge was presented in an effort to connect with literary characters, develop an awareness of the precious gift and scarcity of clean water globally, and to foster a growing sense of service and responsibility. It is hoped that the example set by our 200 young people walking for the cause of access to clean water will raise awareness of this issue and inspire others.

On Thursday, December 8, Clarke Middle School students took an eighty multiple choice history test in their social studies classes. The top twenty scorers were invited to participate in the third annual Clarke Middle School National History Bee which took place on December 15, 2016 in the Little Theatre. The event was coordinated by Lisa Scully, chairperson, along with the help of faculty members, Mr. Polley, Ms. Sanalitro and Mrs. Henry. Of the students who attended the competition, six advanced to the next level which consists of taking an on-line test to see if they qualify for the Regional History Bee. The qualifying students are Steve Cheng, Matthew DeStefano, Andrew Garces, James Griesing, Roberto Sison and Nick Spano.

During the month of December, Clarke Middle School conducted our “Warmth and Kindness Drive” for the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless. We collected scarves, gloves, coats, socks, non-perishable food, and toiletries.

On December 13, twenty-eight students competed in the school-level Scripps Spelling Bee at Clarke Middle School. In an exciting finish, seventh grade student Nicholas Espinosa won the competition by spelling the word **voltmeter**. Sixth grader Matthew Vo placed second. Nicholas will advance to the regional Spelling Bee at Hofstra University in February.

On Thursday December 22, Clarke Middle School got UGLY for a third year in a row. An 'Ugly Sweater Day' fundraiser was held to spread awareness for the skin disease Epidermolysis Bullosa (known to many as EB). The fundraiser was organized by teachers Marianne Newfield and Katie Pienkos. The Clarke community came together once again and put a tremendous amount of effort behind this event. It continues to be a huge success! A donation will be made to The Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of America (debra of America), The mission of DebRA of America is to improve the quality of life for all people living in the United States with EB, their families, and caregivers through free programs and services while funding research to find a cure and treatments for Epidermolysis Bullosa.

Woodland:

On December 15, fourteen students competed in the school-level Scripps Spelling Bee at Woodland Middle School. In an exciting finish, sixth grade student Sarah Chacko won the competition by spelling the word **reminisce**. Seventh grader Amber Dacanay placed second. Sarah will advance to the regional Spelling Bee at Hofstra University in February. Congratulations to all of the participants.

In the spirit of the season, Woodland hosted three toy drives in December. Our sixth graders and Builders Club headed a toy drive in support of the Woodland Families and John Theissen Children’s Foundation. Over 600 toys were collected and donated to the John Theissen Children’s Foundation. The toys were then distributed to sick and underprivileged children in over 185 hospitals and child-care facilities across Long Island. The Builders Club sold Turkey Trail Mix before Thanksgiving and hosted a bake sale, which enabled them to purchase and donate a laptop to the Foundation as well as \$100 to the Woodland Family Fund. Additionally, 181 gifts were collected for 13 local families in need through our annual Winter Holiday Gift Drive. Members of our school community shopped and donated items ranging from gift cards to clothing and video games to craft kits, brightening the holidays for others. The compassion and generosity of so many was truly heartwarming. The Yorker Club at Woodland Middle School, led by Ms. McCormick and Ms. deSousa, hosted a toy drive as well. Throughout October and November, students raised funds by selling World’s Finest Chocolate to family and friends in the community. This fundraising effort provided the club with the funds necessary to purchase a variety of toys. On December 14, the club traveled with staff to Toys ‘R’ Us in Carle Place and purchased a number of items, including LEGO, stuffed animals, books and board games. All items were donated to The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island. Thank you to the Woodland students and families for contributing to these successful toy drives.

This fall, our PTA organized a Used Clothing Drive Fundraiser. Students brought in gently used clothes and shoes in support of the initiative. A total of 214 bags of clothing were collected. Mr. Cutrone’s seventh grade homeroom won a bagel breakfast, courtesy of Woodland PTA, for donating the greatest amount of clothing, 30 bags.

During the week of December 19, the Woodland Select Ensembles held their annual lobby performances. The Vocal Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Jonathan Ross, the Jazz Ensemble & Chamber Winds, under the direction of Zach DeVries, the Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Kelly Gelfer, each performed holiday themed music in the main lobby of Woodland Middle School. Each ensemble showcased their talent and dedication to help the students and staff at Woodland Middle School get into the holiday spirit!

On Tuesday, December 20, the music students from Woodland Middle School were busy spreading holiday cheer and well wishes throughout the school community and Nassau University Medical Center. In addition to their responsibilities at school and preparing for their upcoming winter concerts, the Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz all prepared holiday themed music and embarked on the Woodland Middle School Annual Holiday Carol Tour. Each ensemble rehearsed their individual programs before school and took to the halls of the Woodland Middle School, the Leon J. Campo Salisbury Center and NUMC to spread holiday cheer. The students were received by thunderous applause and smiling faces as they spread their good cheer throughout the school day. The students enjoyed sharing their musical talents as well as helping make the season bright and a little extra special for all those who heard. Each ensemble performed beautifully and were terrific ambassadors of the East Meadow School District and Music Department.

On Thursday, December 22, Woodland faculty and staff took part in the second annual Ugly Seasonal Sweater Day. Faculty members donated to the Woodland Family Fund in order to participate in the event, raising almost \$300 to help the Woodland community during the holiday season. During their lunch periods, students were able to cast a vote for the faculty member wearing the ugliest sweater. Congratulations to Mr. Genino, who received the most votes for the second year in a row! Mr. Brenner and Ms. McCormick tied for 2nd place with Mr. Trionfo placing 3rd.

Clarke High School:

Nearly 100 students in DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of American) participated in the New York State Regional Competition at Freeport High School on Saturday, January 7.

Alby Joseph has been named a Semi-finalist in the Regeneron Science Talent Competition, formerly known as the Intel Science Competition. Alby is one of 300 semi-finalists in the world, as Regeneron is an international competition. Alby will now have a chance to become one of 30 Finalists, which will be named later in January.

On Wednesday, January 25, there will be a Grade 8 to Grade 9 Orientation in the Little Theater at 7:00 p.m. All present eighth grade students and parents are encouraged to attend.

The orchestra and chorus will be traveling to Disney World in Florida on January 27 to participate in several elite workshops and perform in the Magic Kingdom.

On Tuesday, January 31, the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and Dinner will be held at the Chateau Briand, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, February 4, the annual Regional Braille Challenge will be held at W. T. Clarke. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 8:30 a.m.

East Meadow High School:

During the holiday season, students from the East Meadow High School Band played for the annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony at Veteran's Memorial Park. The band is under the direction of Ms. Molly Tittler and Mrs. Catilin Hale. The NYSSMA All-State Conference was held December 1-4, 2016 in Rochester. Congratulations to Alissa Rojas (Mixed Chours), Won Son for both (Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble) and Jolie Rebello (Symphony Orchestra).

On December 8, Mrs. Morhing's Fashion Merchandise classes visited the Tanger Outlets in Riverhead. The students listened to a presentation from the General Manager about marketing and merchandising their fashion apparel.

Mr. Baglivo's NY NY class visited One World Trade Center on December 15. The students visited the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. The class also had a chance to visit and reflect at the 9/11 memorial.

On December 19, Mrs. Hales's chamber choir visited Nassau University Medical Center to sing for their annual visit for the patients spending the holiday season in the hospital. This year they also visited Woodland Middle School as a recruitment trip.

The Adopt-A-Family Program completed its fourteenth successful year at East Meadow High School. Thanks to the generosity of our staff and clubs, we were able to fulfill the holiday wishes of forty-seven children who were in need of holiday gifts. The twenty families were identified by the social workers of East Meadow High School and McVey. Each child received at least six gifts. The students in the clubs who participate are always so happy and willing to give back to people less fortunate in our community.

The Peer Leaders are receiving 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. During the month of January, the Peer Leaders will be leading activities and discussions in all freshman social studies classes on substance abuse prevention.

On January 9, The National Honor Society held its Induction Ceremony at the Milleridge Cottage. This year, 127 students were inducted into the Honor Society. The Honor Society advisors are Kim Themistocleous and Evelyn Sideri.

Clara Song, a sophomore at East Meadow High School has been chosen as this year's HOBY ambassador. Clara will participate with other teens at the Hugh O'Brien Youth 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. Clara was selected through a process that included faculty and administrators, who were unanimously impressed with her poise, confidence and genuine concern for others. Ms. Song is a very conscientious student who is also involved in various extracurricular activities which she enjoys and values. She is the sophomore representative for the Key Club and an active member of STEM & Pre-Med Clubs. She is also a member of the Science, Social Studies, and English Honor Societies. Additionally, Clara volunteers at Winthrop University Hospital and is conducting her own research at St. Johns University in the Medical Chemistry Lab. Last summer, Ms. Song was fortunate enough to participate in a Global Health Initiative trip to the Dominican Republic. This

summer, she is planning another community service trip to Peru. An affinity for science and the desire to help others has her looking toward the medical field, specifically global health. We are very proud to be represented by such a mature, intelligent, sincere young woman.

Districtwide:

Art:

Thirty-two students, in grades one through twelve, have their artwork on display in the Patron's Lounge at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts. The exhibit opened on January 10 and will remain open through February 5. A reception to honor the student artists was held on January 17. 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!

Nicole Majewski and Samantha Harden from W. Tresper Clarke High School will have their artwork displayed at the Student Art League (S.A.L.) Gallery in the B. Davis Schwartz Memorial Library at LIU Post as part of the Advanced Visions 13: High School Artists of Excellence Exhibition from December 13, 2016 until January 25, 2017. A reception to honor the student-artists will take place on Wednesday, January 25, 2017. The Advanced Visions exhibition features the work of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Portfolio Art students from Long Island and New York City.

Ms. Jane Pawlowski and Mr. Carl Strand, art teachers from each of the district's high schools, took their Advanced Studio Art classes to the Art League of Long Island in Dix Hills during the month of January. During the three-hour workshop, students worked with a facilitator from the Art League, sketched a live model in a studio setting, and had the opportunity to critique works and receive feedback.