

# BETHPAGE

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SPRING 2011

## Union Free School District

### NEWSLETTER

# Achievements All Around

## BETHPAGE BRINGS HOME FIRST PLACE TROPHY IN ETHICS BOWL

Bethpage High School participated in the Long Island Ethics Bowl in February, which they not only hosted, but also won! Bethpage High School was among eight schools that sent teams to compete in analyses of ethical dilemmas involving job application validity, rights of obese airline passengers, sexting, and polygamy. The event was featured in *The New York Times*.

While all Bethpage teams made it to the final round, it was Team A – comprised of students Michelle Durnack, Mark Han, Matt Lippertshouser, Amy Gaines, and Alex Mangano – that advanced to the final round and took home the trophy in a triumph over Moorestown Friends Academy of New Jersey. Congratulations to the team and their advisor, Wendy Way.

The Long Island Ethics Bowl is sponsored by the Squire Family Foundation, founded by Long Island native Gary Squire, an advocate for more philosophical instruction at the pre-college level.



## Mathletes Rank High Among 54 Competitive Teams

The Bethpage High School Mathletes multiplied their achievements in the 2011 Nassau Math Tournament at SUNY Old Westbury, during which they outshined the majority of their competitors. The Lower Division Team of ninth and tenth graders placed 10th out of 54 teams, earning a commemorative plaque. Congratulations to Tyler Albert, Harshil Garg, Chang Jeong, Nisha Shah, and Yu En (Ian) Tsang for this great victory!

The Upper Division Team of eleventh and twelfth graders were just as successful, placing 14th out of 65 teams. Additionally, students Patrick Cao and Jerry Kim both scored within the top 20 honors for all eleventh graders. The teams are coached by Mr. Leon LaSpina.

## Bethpage High School Girls Varsity Gymnastics Named Nassau County Champions 2011

Bethpage High School is pleased to announce that the Girls Varsity Gymnastics team has captured the title of Nassau County Champions 2011. Congratulations to team members Sarah Brandwein, Sarah Ciresi, Erica Fantry, Jamie Fletcher, Krista Basso, Kaitlyn Kaplan, Jeanne LaValley, Rachel Massone, Meghan Paola, Serena Pergola, Erin Roach, Marina Dunat, Christina Fernandez, Erin Smith, Casey Wierzbowski, Samantha Zito, Sara Fox, Marissa Garner, Kayla Hochenberger, Kailey Laspina, Alexa Pepe, Katherine Soultanis, and Lauren Abrams!

The team was led to their victory by head coach Kim Rhatigan, assistant coach Vicky Vitale, and co-captains Erica Fantry, Kaitlyn Kaplan, and Erin Roach. "I think that this season everyone expected a lot from us. We worked hard to get where we are and prove how strong our team could be," said co-captain Erin Roach. "I don't think anyone actually expected us to become Nassau County Champions, but it was very rewarding to win," added co-captain Erica Fantry. "It was an exciting experience to win the county championship, especially since we split from Plainview in 2008. The championship is much more meaningful because it was Bethpage only. This is the first championship that Bethpage soloed in, in championship history. It's a good

example of determination and perseverance on behalf of the Bethpage athletes. They believed they could do it, and they did it! I'm very proud to be their gymnastics coach, especially since I grew up in Bethpage," stated head coach Kim Rhatigan.

In addition, three of the gymnasts represented Nassau County at the state level. Kudos to Serena Pergola, Erin Roach, and Sarah Ciresi!



*Pictured with the gymnastics team is head coach Kim Rhatigan, assistant coach Vicky Vitale, Principal Michael Spence, and Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics John Franchi. (Absent at the time of photo are Krista Basso, Kaitlyn Kaplan, Marina Dunat, Marissa Garner, Kayla Hochenberger, and Lauren Abrams).*

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Bethpage, New York 11714

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More accomplishments featured inside this issue

## MESSAGE

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Residents,

As we enter the spring season, it is always gratifying to see the progress made by students on projects they have worked on since September. At this time of year, we all begin to gather for science fairs, art shows, concerts, competitions and awards events that showcase the talents of our scholars, artists, musicians and athletes.

We have had quite a start to this celebratory season. Students in all five schools enjoyed our annual READ Across Bethpage program that celebrated the joys of reading. Our orchestra was impressive during the recent Mark Wood concert that brought a famous electric violinist into our schools for a collaboration of his talents with those of our own musicians. I was privileged to get a sneak preview of our high school band's rendition of Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* and can tell you that it is a pleasure to listen to. In the field of drama, the forthcoming productions - *Hairspray*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Wizard of Oz* - are second to none.

At a recent Board of Education meeting we honored our Mathletes for their performance in a county competition, and our Philosophy Club students for their victory in the recent Long Island Ethics Bowl that was featured in *The New York Times*. Our Kickline team returned from South Carolina as national champions in Kick and second in Pom, and our Gymnastics team earned a county championship just a week earlier. I want to thank our Cheerleaders who have struck up quite a friendship with our local senior citizens. Our Cheerleaders taught the Senior Eagles a cheer routine, which they performed together at a basketball game. They all had so much fun that the Senior Citizens Club invited the Cheerleaders to lunch at the Fox Hollow, where they all shared a lot of laughs!

Our secondary special education students have for the first time been participating on a basketball team that has now played four games. They have competed against different teams from around Long Island and they

have proven to be quite good and competitive! What a pleasure it is to watch these special athletes bond while displaying such unbelievable sportsmanship and concern for one another.

Our 21st Century Scholars' Program has been a hit with students at all levels. The number of activities our students are participating in would be impressive for a college campus. For us, it is students in grades 4 through 12 who are attending operas and concerts, learning to program an Android app, making videos, discussing foreign policy with a CIA analyst, participating in literature circles, running in a marathon, hearing about a career in engineering from a Northrop-Grumman engineer, and entering the national FIRST Robotics and K'NEX competitions. I will soon have the pleasure of giving a presentation to officials at the State Education Department about the program they have heard so much about.

As we move through the spring, we should all focus on student performances like those mentioned here. The teachers who foster these talented students continue to do an outstanding job. The parents who nurture their children in such supportive means are exemplary. The Bethpage community as a whole continues to benefit from the rich academic, musical, artistic and athletic programs we provide to our youngsters. We all have a lot to be grateful for in this spring season.

Sincerely,



Terrence Clark  
Superintendent of Schools

## JASDEEP SINGH NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

Jasdeep Singh, a BHS senior, was named Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program, after earning Semifinalist standing in the fall of 2010. Jasdeep was accepted to the Honors program at SUNY Stony Brook and is currently waiting on decisions from Columbia University and New York University before he finalizes his college plans.

Of approximately 1.5 million entrants, about 50,000 qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program, and only 15,000 are named Finalists. Finalists, who must meet a number of requirements, including high academic performance throughout high school as well as impressive SAT scores, are considered for various Merit Scholarship awards.



## HANNA KIM ACCEPTED TO WEST POINT

Bethpage High School senior Hanna Kim has been accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, which she will attend as a member of the Class of 2015. Hanna wishes to follow-up her education at the highest level, bringing with her the morals and ethics she has learned while at BHS.

West Point applicants are evaluated in the areas of academic performance, leadership potential, and physical aptitude, and must also be nominated from a congressional representative. West Point graduates earn Bachelor of Science degrees and are commissioned as second lieutenants in the United States Army.



# Bethpage Buildings Hit the Books! 3

## READ Across Bethpage Day Celebrated Districtwide



READ Across Bethpage Day was recognized across the District on March 2, with the theme, "Reading in the 21st Century" signifying the various platforms of literacy that exist today, from books to audio to e-reader devices. The day was celebrated as part of the National Education Association's thirteenth Read Across America Day, a special annual reading celebration that coincides with the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

READ Across Bethpage Day was developed as a day for students, staff, and the community to celebrate and share the love of reading and reflect on the positive impact it has on our daily lives. Each building in the District held activities and events based on reading – with this being the first year that JFK Middle School and Bethpage High School participated in READ Day.

Both Bethpage High School and JFK Middle School held scavenger hunts, short mystery readings, and video booktalks on television screens. At Bethpage High School, staff wore READ Day t-shirts and the lobby area was decorated with a banner and slips of colorful paper indicating students' favorite books. The High School even reached out to the community on READ Day, with a Reading Reflections book drive.

JFK Middle School's lobby was also decorated for READ Day, with a huge display comprised of students' book recommendations. In English classes, students were invited to create artifact bags containing items related to a character or book, bring in their favorite childhood books for discussion, and create artistic character masks. Teacher "pop-ins" were also a highlight in many classrooms throughout the day, with staff stopping by to talk about books and reading.

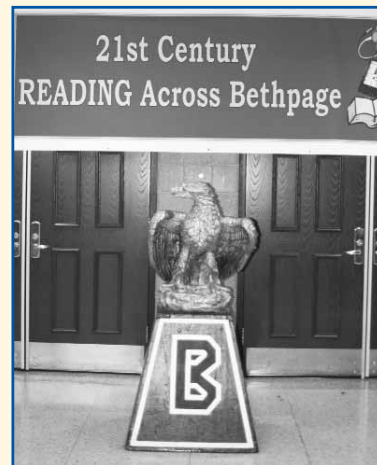
Central Boulevard School started READ Day off on the right foot, with a Reading Oath and rundown of

the day's activities. Following the introduction, classes were partnered and each pair of classes participated in two activities based on Dr. Seuss books. Special area support teachers also visited the partnered classes and read books. Even art, music, and physical education specials focused on Dr. Seuss stories on READ Day. The day ended with an exciting school-wide song and dance performance of "Gotta Keep Reading" (borrowed off YouTube).

Charles Campagne School kicked off the day with a Readers Oath, and Drop Everything and Read times were held in the morning and afternoon. Kindergarteners celebrated with "Green Eggs and Ham," while first graders created Reading is Everywhere collages. Children in the second grade voted on their favorite Dr. Seuss books, and third graders listed their top 10 reasons to read and also read and discussed "The Lorax." Fourth grade students read "Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids," by Carol McCloud, and completed their own bucket-filling exercise. Fifth

graders created posters that were displayed all over the building. In the Library, children in all grades participated in Dr. Seuss Centers such as character match-ups, "Cat in the Hat" Tic Tac Toe, and more. Older children also read to the younger children as Reading Buddies throughout the day.

At Kramer Lane, READ Day was given the theme "Dr. Seuss Is on the Loose!" Classes partnered for activity sessions and reading times in the morning. In the afternoon, teachers read Dr. Seuss books to their own classes at "Seuss Time," and later, students in grades 3-5 read picture books to children in grades K-2. The day also included Storyteller Assemblies, and was wrapped up with an end-of-day Drop Everything and READ time, when students returned to their own classrooms to quietly read after a busy day of fun throughout the building.



## Children's Book Author Suzy Kline Visits Elementary Schools

Author Suzy Kline, famous for her *Herbie Jones*, *Song Lee*, and *Horrible Harry* series, visited second and third-grade students at Central Boulevard, Charles Campagne, and Kramer Lane Elementary Schools during February.

Mrs. Kline brought many props, including a pencil stub, a yellow scarf, and a light bulb necklace, which were some "seeds" for her stories. She told the students that "seeds for stories are in our everyday life." Her number one tool as a writer is the use of a pocket notebook, and she encouraged the future writers to "always carry one with you." Mrs. Kline spoke to the students about how she became a writer after being a schoolteacher for 27 years, and gave many excellent pointers as well as some humorous anecdotes, from rejection letters to the publication of her first book, "*S-H-H-H-H!*" in 1984.

She taught the students how to read a play, with teachers acting out the characters, and then ended her visit with a question-and-answer session. Her last words to the students were, "Don't forget to pack a little notebook in your pocket, and have a wonderful year of writing!"

Each student received a signed copy of *Horrible Harry Bugs the Three Bears* as a memento of Suzy Kline's visit.



Author Suzy Kline speaks to second and third-grade students at Kramer Lane Elementary School about what it is like to be a writer.



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## Hope Is Here to Stay Author Shares Story with Central Boulevard Students

Fourth and fifth-grade students in the 21st Century Program at Central Boulevard Elementary School enjoyed a special visit from the author of *Hope Is Here to Stay*, Patrice Domozych.

Mrs. Domozych shared her inspirational book, which tells the story of her niece, 13-year-old Lauren Loose, whose battle with pediatric cancer made her want to help other children fighting the same illness. Mrs. Domozych also spoke to students about the writing process, reasons for writing a book, and followed up with a discussion about communication, inspiration, and empowerment.

Through book sales, a foundation was created called “Lauren’s First and Goal Football Camp.” The foundation helps families as they deal with pediatric cancer, and it raises money to support pediatric brain tumor research. After sharing information about the foundation, each student received a personalized copy of the book *Hope Is Here to Stay*, and also became part of “Lauren’s Circle of Strength.”



*Patrice Domozych, author of Hope Is Here to Stay, speaks to Central Boulevard Elementary School students about her niece's battle with pediatric cancer and the writing process.*



*Registered dietician Jennifer Colletti from Cornell Cooperative Extension uses the food pyramid to teach fourth graders all about healthy eating.*

## Charles Campagne Students Learn About Healthy Eating

Students in Susan McGarvey and Elisa Kane’s fourth-grade classes at Charles Campagne Elementary School had a visit from registered dietician Jennifer Colletti, a presenter from Cornell Cooperative Extension, to learn all about making smarter food choices and living a healthier lifestyle.

Ms. Colletti taught the students about the food pyramid, which includes a variety of healthy fruits, vegetables, whole grains, dairy products, proteins, fats, oils, and sugars, and how the inclusion of these food groups in their daily diets would lead to an improvement in their overall quality of life, give them more energy to stay focused, and help them to grow up stronger and live longer. “Eating healthy is eating a variety of foods every day from different food groups,” stated Ms. Colletti.

The visit ended with a question-and-answer session in which all of the students had a chance to participate.

## Kramer Lane Students Participate in Winthrop’s Reach Out and Read Program



*Pictured from left to right are (back row): Project coordinators Andrea Swicord, Denise Caliguri, Sara Dionne, and Principal Rowena Costa. Fourth-grade students are (left to right): Matt Goldstein, John Schmidt, Amanda Hartwig, Gianna Facarile, and Taylor Galgano.*

Fourth-grade students in the 21st Century Program at Kramer Lane Elementary School have launched a book drive to benefit Winthrop University Hospital’s “Reach Out and Read” program. Reach Out and Read is a national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children. In the exam room, trained doctors and nurses speak with parents about the importance of reading aloud. At each checkup, from six months to five years, the child receives a new book to take home. Clinic waiting rooms are transformed into literacy-rich areas, with volunteer readers modeling techniques of reading aloud. Reach Out and Read makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric primary care so that children grow up with books and a love of reading.

In addition to donating books for this worthwhile cause, the students created bookmarks that were placed inside each donated book. They also helped with the packing of the books prior to their pickup by a Winthrop representative on March 2, which was when the school participated in their “Read Across Bethpage Day.”



# JFK Middle School Students Create Fleece Scarves for Charity

Students in the 21st Century Junior Scholars Program at JFK Middle School took up a community service project that allowed them to be creative, as well as kind to others.

The project, "Fleece Scarves for Charity," began on Friday, January 28, under the direction of teachers Erica Blau and Courtney Young, and was completed on Friday, February 11, when the students finished putting together their "no-sew" fleece scarves, which were donated to a local nursing home.

The students began the project using a pattern that was traced onto fleece material purchased from a local fabric store and then cut out. After the scarves were pieced together, the recipients became the proud owners of colorful, cozy warm scarves made by JFK Middle School students.



# Bethpage Golden Eagles Take On Calhoun Colts in Interscholastic Basketball Game



The Golden Eagles take time for a team photo before their first game against the Calhoun Colts.

JFK Middle School and Bethpage High School's newly formed co-ed Interscholastic Basketball team, named the Golden Eagles, participated in their very first game at home (Bethpage High School) against the Calhoun Colts on March 2. This was the first of four games to be played this season, and the only one at home. The team is coached by JFK Middle School special education teachers Danielle Greco and Jen D'Albenzio, as well as by Kevin Fullerton, JFK Middle School Assistant Principal.

With only two weeks of practice before the big game, competition between the two teams was fierce. It was a high scoring game for both sides. The Golden Eagles had the full support of spectators including administration, faculty, family, friends, and members of the community, as well as the Senior Eagles, Varsity Cheerleaders, and the Golden Girls – Bethpage High School's kickline team - all of whom gave a spectacular pregame performance.

At the conclusion of the game, the Golden Eagles celebrated with a pizza party, compliments of SEPTA.

A special "thank you" is extended to Executive Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Patricia Hantzidiamantis for making the arrangements.

Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark gives the Golden Eagles a pregame pep talk.



The Senior Eagles were present to support the new team, and performed at halftime.



The Golden Girls kickline team performs before the game.



The Bethpage High School Varsity Cheerleaders pose for a group photo.



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## High School Students Attend **HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS CONFERENCE**

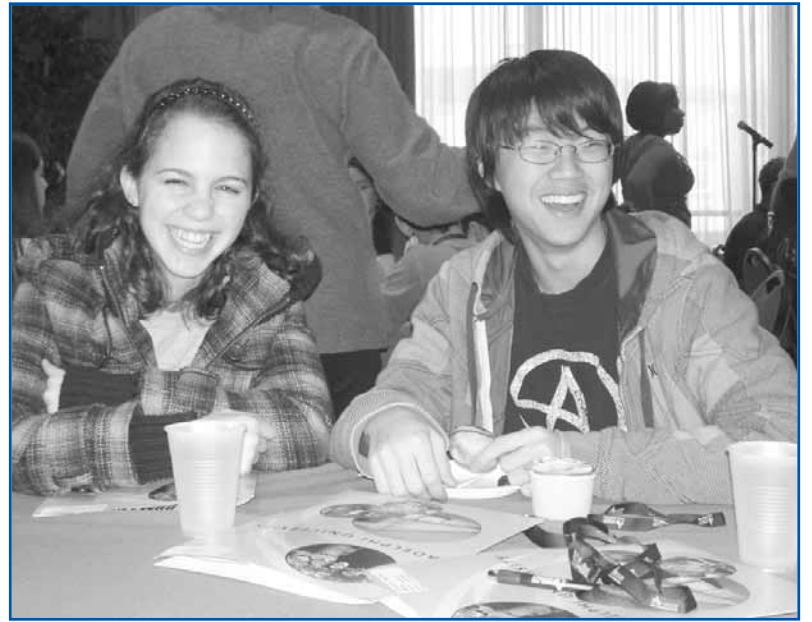
Student Civic members, along with students from other high schools across Nassau County, participated in the 25th Annual Nassau County Human Rights Awareness Conference at Adelphi University. This year's theme, "Your Human Rights Are My Responsibility," was reflected in the workshops at the conference.

Some of the workshops presented were: "Hate Crimes 101 - The Continuum of Prejudicial Behavior," presented by Alisty Keneth of AJK Diversified; "If Your Words Had the Power/Passing Along Dare to Care," presented by Erika Duncan (founder and artistic director of "Herstory Writers Workshop," a program offered to schools, social service agencies, and institutions); "Here I Stand: Silence Only Empowers the Oppressor," presented by Mineola High School's Increase the Peace Club; and "From Your Facebook Page to Your Prom Date: Students' Rights," presented by the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) Nassau Chapter led by Samantha Fredrickson, Esq., Director.

Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano delivered the morning keynote address to a packed crowd at the Adelphi University Student Center, despite having left Albany at four o'clock that morning. He expressed how important such a conference and its values are in today's world, and how he felt that his address would emphasize that point to today's youth.

The afternoon presentation was a dramatic rendition by Adelphi students of "The Laramie Project," a portrayal of the story of Matthew Shepherd, a gay young man who was tortured and killed by two other young men in Laramie, Wyoming in 1998. The bus ride home lent itself to discussion from the students and their inspiration from attending the conference.

Bethpage High School students in attendance were Leila Dastgheib-Beheshti, Holly Josephs, Jerry Kim, Michelle Mason, Nicole Scagliola, and Christina Wing. Their advisor, Jacqueline Jill Rito, who is also a member of the Nassau County Human Rights Awareness Conference Advisory Board, accompanied the students to the conference.



*Holly Josephs and Jerry Kim were among the Student Civic members in attendance.*



*Bethpage High School students Nicole Scagliola and Michelle Mason attended the conference at Adelphi.*

## **Rohan Murphy Speaks to Students at JFK Middle School**

The Character Education theme that was emphasized at John F. Kennedy Middle School for the month of February was "courage."

During a special assembly, guest speaker Rohan Murphy, an entrepreneur, inspirational athlete, and motivational speaker, addressed the students about having the courage to overcome adversity and live life with a purpose.

Born with a congenital deformity of both legs, Mr. Murphy underwent a double amputation when he turned four years old, which led him to get prosthetics at a later age. Like most children with a disability, he had a tough time fitting in and making friends because he was in a wheelchair. He had a natural passion for sports, and when he was in the eighth grade he was invited by his gym teacher to become the manager of the soccer team.

In the ninth grade, Rohan tried out for his high school's junior varsity wrestling team. Through hard work and dedication he not only made the team, but also won his very first varsity match. His success continued throughout his high school years and into college.

Rohan earned a degree in kinesiology from Penn State University, was recently interviewed on ABC's 20/20, and has been featured in a Nike "No Excuses" commercial.

He left the students by stating, "Anything's possible. You've got to believe!"



*Motivational speaker Rohan Murphy speaks to the students at JFK Middle School.*



## BETHPAGE ORCHESTRA STUDENTS <sup>7</sup> PERFORM ALONGSIDE MARK WOOD



*Anthony Giordano, a high school student, tries out the Viper.*



*Kristen Flores has a go on the Viper.*



*Eric Kay gets middle school students set up.*



*Applause for a great performance.*

In March, Mark Wood, rock violinist extraordinaire and creator of the Viper Electric Violin, conducted a workshop with the Bethpage High School and John F. Kennedy Middle School orchestras in the high school's auditorium. This exciting workshop, a music education program entitled "Electrify Your Strings!," has received much public acclaim over the last few years.

The Bethpage School District musicians were very excited to work alongside Mr. Wood, who is also an Emmy Award-winning composer and solo artist. He has toured with Celine Dion and performed with Billy Joel, Lenny Kravitz and Kanye West. He was also an original member of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

During the workshop, some of the students took time out to express their feelings about working with Mr. Wood. "Mr. Wood is really fun to work with and has a lot of energy," commented Deana Bologna, a seventh-grade viola player. "I feel kind of nervous, playing the electric violin today for the first time, but I am confident that I can do it," stated Kristen Flores, a ninth-grade violist. Michael Spence, Principal at Bethpage High School, was equally excited about the workshop and said, "The work that Mark Wood did with both the middle and high school orchestras was absolutely fantastic. The students really enjoyed the experience, and his method of teaching certainly furthered their love of all string music. It was great to see the high school students working alongside the middle school students, with both groups equally passionate about the music. Playing the music of Led Zeppelin, Kansas, and The Beatles really excited the orchestra students, and they had a lot of fun doing it."

The two-day workshop, which taught the students various aspects of musicianship, culminated in an incredible evening concert with Mark Wood performing side-by-side with the students on March 2 at 7:00 p.m. They played classic rock by Ozzy Osbourne, Kansas, The Beatles, Cream, Steppenwolf, and Coldplay. As an added bonus, orchestra director Eric Kay joined the final performance by playing saxophone right alongside his students. Mark Wood not only electrified his strings, but he electrified the audience as well!

A very special "thank you" is extended to orchestra director Eric Kay, for arranging the workshop and performance.



*Mark Wood gets the students tuned up.*

## JFK Middle School Students Take On the K'NEX Challenge

K'NEX, the multicolored toy construction set, has inspired sixth-grade science students at John F. Kennedy Middle School to recreate the rescue of the Chilean miners with a model system that will bring the miners to the surface.

Groups of these student-architects are building a rescue capsule by creating a pulley system that can be used to hoist a miner (tomato paste can) from deep in the mine (floor) to the surface to fulfill the requirements to compete in the annual K'NEXpert Classroom Challenge for grades five and six.

The students have been meeting twice a week with Science Director/Project Coordinator Janice Yale and science teachers Jill Bennardo, Vincent Perez and Michael Tavitian as part of the Bethpage School District's 21st Century Scholars Program.

The K'NEXpert Classroom Challenge encourages students to use science, math, and technology skills and to apply an organized and logical strategy as they create and problem-solve in the building of a rescue system. The challenge also increases the students' manipulative skills and sense of cooperation with team members.



*JFK Middle School sixth graders construct rescue systems using K'NEX.*



# Jermaine John Wins Wrestling Championship

Congratulations to senior Jermaine John, who won the Nassau County Tournament for wrestling in February. This impressive victory, which took place at Hofstra University, made Jermaine Bethpage High School's first county champion in 11 years. Jermaine continued his successful season at the State Wrestling Tournament, where he placed fifth against athletes from schools throughout New York. Jermaine plans to sign a Letter of Intent to wrestle once he decides on the college he will attend in the fall of 2011.



(L-R) Guidance Counselor Mr. James Benjamin, student Jermaine John, Coach Woodrow Cromarty and Coach Ron Abatelli.



## Michael Comparetto Signs Letter of Intent

Bethpage High School senior Michael Comparetto signed a Letter of Intent to play lacrosse at Pace University in Westchester. Michael has played on the High School's Varsity Lacrosse Team for three years in the "attack" position.

In addition to playing lacrosse for the past 12 years, Michael enjoys playing football and hockey. He plans to major in business while at Pace University.

Top row: (L-R) Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Mr. John Franchi, High School Principal Mr. Michael Spence, and Coach Erwin Dill. Bottom row: Bethpage High School senior Michael Comparetto (center), joined by parents Michael and Annmarie, signs the Letter of Intent for Pace University.



## BHS Battle of the Classes

Bethpage High School continued its tradition of Battle of the Classes, where each grade had a different theme and students represented their class with banners, costumes, and more. The Futuristic Freshmen, Under the Sea Sophomores, Nick Juniors, and Say Yeah for the Seniors gathered on the afternoon of March 11 to celebrate. This year's event also tied in a reading focus, with a hall-decorating contest that was given the theme "What Are You Reading?" It was another exciting Battle of the Classes in Bethpage!



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A Publication of the Bethpage School District's  
Community Relations Office

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