

# Mark Your Calendars!

## Budget Development Dates

As the district begins its discussion on the 2014-15 school budget, we urge all residents to participate in our budget development process. These meetings will provide an opportunity for community members to express their opinions, to ask questions, and to hear explanations of the "tax levy cap." We look forward to seeing you at these meetings.

**Tuesday, Feb. 25**

Board of Education Business Meeting 8 p.m. @ BHS

**Thursday, April 24**

Board of Education Business Meeting 8 p.m. @ BHS

**Tuesday, March 25**

Board of Education Business Meeting 8 p.m. @ BHS

**Tuesday, May 13**

Budget Hearing 8 p.m. @ BHS

**Tuesday, May 20**

**School Budget Vote & Trustee Election 7am-9pm @ BHS**

## Kindergarten Registration

The district is conducting kindergarten registration for its three elementary schools for the 2014-2015 school year. Children born before December 1, 2009, are eligible for enrollment.

Parents should contact the main office of each school prior to registration to receive paperwork that can be completed in advance: KLS: 644-4500; CBS: 644-4300; CCS: 644-4400. To determine your child's school, please call 644-4040. Registration will take place at the respective schools during normal school hours.

## Private/Parochial School Transportation Reminder

Parents of students attending private parochial schools should note that the deadline to submit your transportation request is April 1, 2014. For more information, please call 644-4040.

## TAX CODE

The Bethpage School District Code Number for New York State Tax Returns is 052.

Please be certain to fill in the number in the appropriate space provided on your tax returns. School aid can be affected if the school district or code is incorrect or missing.



## Emergency Closing of Schools



Arrangements have been made to notify the general public whenever schools are to be closed because of weather conditions. A ConnectEd message will be made to all homes. If schools are to be closed, the announcement will be posted on the district website: [www.bethpagecommunity.com](http://www.bethpagecommunity.com) and will be broadcast intermittently over the following stations:

WCBS (880 AM)

News 12 Long Island  
(Channel 12)

WINS (1010 AM)

FiOS 1 (Channel 1)

Union Free School District  
**BETHPAGE**

NEWSLETTER

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

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# BETHPAGE

## Union Free School District

### NEWSLETTER



## JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL: First School in Nation to Rename 50 Years Ago

Formerly the Bethpage School, John F. Kennedy Middle School was the first school in the nation to be renamed after the former president, just four days after his assassination. Tied as the first with JFK Elementary School in Butte, Mont., JFK Middle School held remembrance events and a ceremony on Nov. 22 to mark the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's death. The school assembled a museum in Kennedy's honor, hosted a ceremony that included a video conference with the school in Montana, and created and wore T-shirts in memory of the 35th president.

The six-week project leading up to Nov. 22 was made possible through the use of the students' Google Chromebooks. Each class was assigned a specific area of study on Kennedy and was asked to research that subject and time. The material was garnered with the assistance of the Chromebooks and displayed patriotically on poster boards in the gymnasium. Also on display were relics

and artifacts from the time period, including newspapers, plaques and documents, borrowed from venues such as the Bethpage Public Library and the Central Park Historical Society.

"I believe it's very important to learn about our history and who helped make our country what it is now," said sixth-grader Bryan Hanley. "JFK really helped our nation during hard times. It was very sad that he was assassinated, and it's really important that we honor this day. His legacy will live forever."

A ceremony concluding the daylong event featured performances from the sixth-grade orchestra, the Eagles' Voice chorus and the eighth-grade band, as well as the presentation of essay contest winners who answered the question, "How is President John F. Kennedy's legacy still alive at JFK Middle School today?" Contest winners were eighth-grader Nicole El Chami, seventh-grader Sean Brass, and sixth-grader Patrick Kerrigan, with an

honorable mention for Adam Hadhoud. District administrators, Board of Education members and

local dignitaries were also on hand for the festivities.

"We are proud of our heritage and history, and proud to pick up the torch that President Kennedy left for us and the rest of the world," said Principal Kevin Fullerton in his address. "It is a wonderful tribute that our school bears his name and honors his legacy each day."

Ron Ricketts, principal of JFK Elementary School in Montana, personally joined Bethpage for its ceremony and presented the school with a special plaque, whose replica will hang at his school in Butte. "The students at JFK Elementary and you here at JFK Middle School are not much different from each other," he said. "In being here today, I want to tie our schools together with the understanding that we will all live out the dream that JFK had for us...from New York to Montana and beyond, the death of John F. Kennedy affected the entire world. Yet today, 50 years later, we are here as proof that his legacy continues."

Video from the museum and photos from the ceremony can be viewed on the district website at [www.bethpagecommunity.com](http://www.bethpagecommunity.com).

Bethpage Union Free School District  
Bethpage, New York 11714

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*"It is a wonderful tribute that our school bears his name and honors his legacy each day."*

## 2 • A Message from • the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

My last message focused on the many changes occurring in education, with Common Core, state assessments and teacher evaluations all taking place in a short window of time and creating anxiety for students, parents, teachers and administrators.

One of the things on which we pride ourselves here in Bethpage is our concern with all aspects of a child's well-being; the social, emotional, physical and academic aspects are all important to us as educators and as a community. Our academic statistics are well-known and often publicized. Our students, K-12, demonstrate outstanding performance by all academic measures – state assessments, formative assessments and, most importantly, the percentage going to college and the high caliber of the schools accepting Bethpage students.

I want to share with you a new initiative we are undertaking with several community groups, one that centers on the health and wellness of our children. In collaboration with the PTA, Bethpage Educational Foundation, Bethpage Public Library and others, students and staff are formulating plans for a wellness project that will be centered on a calendar of activities to make students, parents and community members more conscious of health and nutrition. Students from all five of our schools have been meeting and will soon be unveiling their plans.

The impetus for this initiative is well-documented, as we have all read about the rise in childhood obesity and juvenile diabetes. In a reversal of the past 50 years, the bigger problem today is not malnourishment, but overeating. And when our committee of students met to discuss the issues, they volunteered that they spend far too much time playing video games or absorbed by the apps on their phones.

The general plan for this initiative is to have free, open sessions where students, parents and community members can come together to try new activities and have fun getting healthy. One name proposed by the students for the program is "Fun and Fit." A calendar of events, sponsored locally by schools or private enterprises, would be published, and people could elect to attend open classes in Zumba, Pilates, yoga, basketball, swimming, martial arts, and healthy cooking and nutrition, among many others. We envision an evening where the entire community comes out to walk the track, or one where a community Zumba class takes place on the front lawn of Bethpage High School. It has been fascinating to see the students putting this plan together.

I openly admit that I am hardly the poster child for a healthy lifestyle, but I am hoping that this student initiative changes the habits of both youngsters and older people like me. In the coming months, you will hear more about this. The students are readying presentations and will present to their classmates, the PTA and many other community groups. They are very excited and hope this initiative has a lasting impact. If you are interested in helping out, email me at [tclark@bethpage.ws](mailto:tclark@bethpage.ws) so that I can put you in contact with these remarkable students who are undertaking this important mission.

Sincerely,



Terrence Clark  
Superintendent of Schools

# There's No Place Like Home

By Dan Gottlieb and Michele Kappel

On the morning of Jan. 2, 2014, Bethpage High School hosted the inauguration of Edward P. Mangano, ushering in his second term as Nassau County executive.

The two-and-a-half-hour event featured eloquent speeches that praised the



accomplishments of Mangano during his first term, as well as beautiful musical interludes by Christopher Macchio and the BHS Band.

Following the inaugural festivities, we were given the opportunity to interview the newly re-elected official and Bethpage alumnus before such counterparts as NBC and News 12, which was an entertaining and informative experience.

Since the beginning of his first term, Mangano has maintained a strong stance against tax increases on Nassau County residents. In his first inaugural address, he emphasized his commitment to not raising taxes and limiting the amount of new debt the county incurred, giving money back to the people instead of taking it away. According to Mangano, "For the last four years we have not raised real property taxes, and we have no plan to do so." Hopefully, Nassau County can look forward to another four years of stable property taxes and limited new debt.

Superstorm Sandy was easily one of the most crippling situations ever faced by not only the county but also the state, and Mangano played a significant role in coordinating rescue and volunteer efforts to help our citizens. The storm showed the best of who we are as Long Islanders and the resiliency of who we are as people.

"We're in the process of getting stronger," Mangano pointed out, emphasizing the vast efforts made to receive the necessary funding from Albany in order to expedite the recovery.

After some light banter, it was time to touch on some hard-hitting questions. "What is the hardest part of being an elected official?" we asked. "Constantly standing, constantly smiling, or constantly shaking hands?" The executive grinned and chose the first option, citing nagging heel spurs.

Overall, it was a pleasure to chat with the executive. Our interview with him gave us an opportunity to gain some insight into what Mangano thought of his first term and what we can all expect for the next four years.



## Benefit Show

Bethpage High School's student civic talent show, now in its 11th year, was held on Jan. 16. The Student Civic organization explores community service as a means to make the world a better place and is involved in a number of projects, both locally and at large. Benefiting Long Island Cares, attendees were charged an admission fee and/or can donation to help fill the pantry that supplies food to thousands of Long Islanders. Students Liz Backman and Deena Hadhound emceed the event, which included acoustic performances, bands, instrumentals and disc jockeying from many of the school's talented students. Winners of the 2014 talent show were:

- First place – Samantha Ingenito singing "Hallelujah"
- Second place – Michelle Vayner singing "Clouds"
- Third place – Ryan Imbornoni DJ mixing

This year's judges were DJ Rocky from WBAB radio; Jesse Kinch, a Long Island rock musician; Eileen Scanlon Christofi, a social justice advocate and freelance cosmetologist; and Brian O'Haire, a musician and songwriter known as "Billionaire Brian."

## Buckle Up for Safety

Beep, beep! Kindergartners at Charles Campagne are experts on the rules of the road. An AAA representative, along with her trusty puppet pal Matt, used humor and role-playing to demonstrate proper safety procedures – both when in a car or while walking on the street – to the students. They covered all the basics, such as making sure everyone in the car wears a seatbelt, as well as the more complicated safety procedures like remaining calm in the car, not distracting the driver, the dangers of front-seat airbags for young passengers and the importance of using a booster seat until children are the proper height.

Using chairs and a seatbelt, student volunteers enacted correct and incorrect car behavior for both the passengers and the driver. Students also practiced proper road etiquette for walking or riding a bike on the street.



## Working with a Guest Artist

### Mural Commemorates Blue Ribbon

Every student and staff member at Kramer Lane Elementary School had a hand in creating a large tile mural that commemorates the school's recent designation as a

National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Assisting with the mural was local artist Esther Tollen, who has been working with the district for more than 15 years. In early January, Ms. Tollen visited with art classes at the school for a week to help students create the piece depicting an eagle carrying a blue ribbon. All students in kindergarten through fifth grade helped with the project, and all staff members had a chance to lay a few pieces as well. Following her week with the students, Ms. Tollen returned to her studio to fire and grout the ceramic tiles together. The sign was hung in the main lobby of the school in the end of January.



### Getting Creative with Character Ed

Students at Charles Campagne will be assisting in a portion of the school's character education program this year by helping to create signs for the hallways. In February, each hallway in the school will be named after a positive character trait, including Courage Court, Respect Drive, Responsibility Road, Perseverance Place, Compassion Circle and Honesty Highway.

Assisting with the signage for the new road names was local artist Esther Tollen. Ms. Tollen, who has been working with Charles Campagne Elementary for more than 15 years, visited with art classes at the school for one week in November to help students create ceramic tile street signs bearing the names of each hallway. All students in grades K-5 helped with the project. Following her week with the students, Ms. Tollen returned to her studio to fire the ceramic tiles into one piece. She will work with her metalsmith to attach the signs to metal before they are hung throughout the school.

Completed signs will be unveiled in February as part of the districtwide Anti-Bullying Week festivities.



# ⑥ Author's Celebration

Reading specialist Sandi Saltzman has been working hard to develop readers and writers at Charles Campagne Elementary School. As part of a collaboration with the first-grade teachers, first-graders were asked to become experts in a specific skill and then explain to others how to perform that skill. Using steps to guide their audience, the authors wrote detailed steps on how to replicate their specific skill, including a list of items needed and the reasons the skill is important. Students put their thoughts together in a book format, complete with illustrations to guide the reader through each step.

After the books were bound, the first-grade classes came together in a special Author's Celebration to share their creations. The event offered an opportunity for the authors to share their books and skills with their peers, and for their peers to perhaps learn some new skills.

"We want you to know how very proud we are of all your hard work," Mrs. Saltzman told the students. "You are all now accomplished authors and illustrators."

Some of the skills included: how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, how to make a snowman, how to use a camera, how to fish, how to sit like a five-star listener, and how to make a Rainbow Loom bracelet.

At the conclusion of the Author's Celebration, students shared what they learned through the process in front of the group.



## Project Astro

The Project Astro program, facilitated by the Cradle of Aviation Museum, matches teachers with local astronomers from the Amateur Observers' Society of Long Island to help bring astronomy into the classroom. Bethpage is lucky enough to have several teachers at the high



school, middle school and Central Boulevard School who volunteered to train and collaborate on lesson plans for the program, which is being incorporated into the school day, as well as part of an after-school 21st Century program or Astronomy Club lesson.

Fifth-grade students in Erika Lemaire's and Tim Regan's classes at Central Boulevard were among the first to have an astronomy session in November. The session was co-taught by Jean Wilkstrom from the Amateur Observers' Society of Long Island, and together students completed a short, interactive quiz and researched the names and specifics of stars within various constellations. Each participating class will have a total of three sessions, including one where they will be able to handle meteorites.

Other participating teachers include Elizabeth Raia and Chris Pollatos, who are the advisers to the Astronomy Club at the high school, and Gabriella Siminerio and Susan Scigliabaglio, who teach eighth grade at JFK.

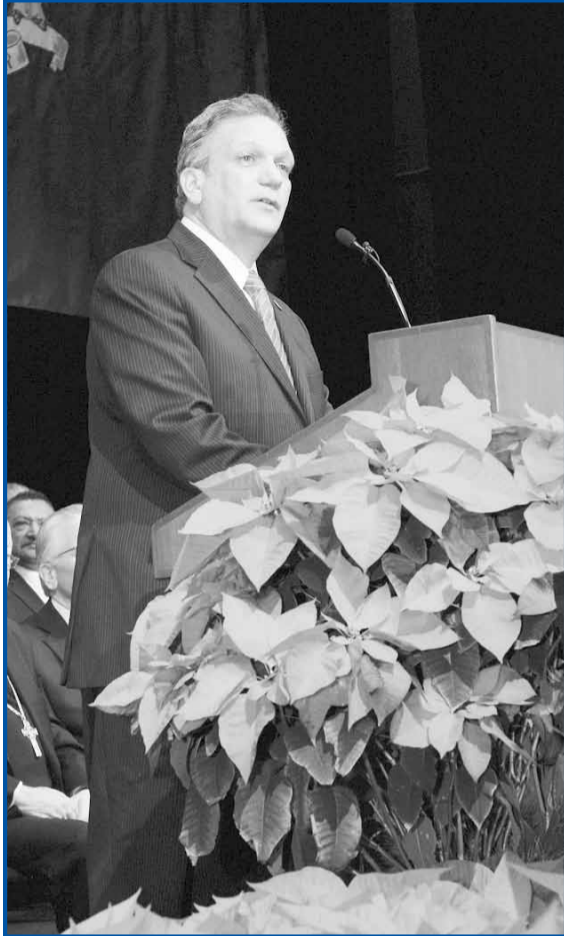
"We are extremely grateful to the Cradle of Aviation for offering this partnership to our district, and for the teachers who volunteered to take part in this program," said district science director Janice Yale. "We are certain this will enrich our science curriculum for these students and we hope to expand it to more students in the future."



## Education on Ice

Kramer Lane Elementary School was visited by three star players from the New York Islanders professional hockey team. As part of the team's healthy living campaign for schools, defensemen Radek Martinek (No. 4) and Andrew MacDonald (No. 47) and center Frans Nielsen (No. 51) spoke to students about the importance of making healthy decisions with regard to peer pressure, bullying, schoolwork, eating and exercise. At the conclusion of the program, the Islanders signed autographs for all students.

# District Hosts **Mangano Inauguration** <sup>3</sup>



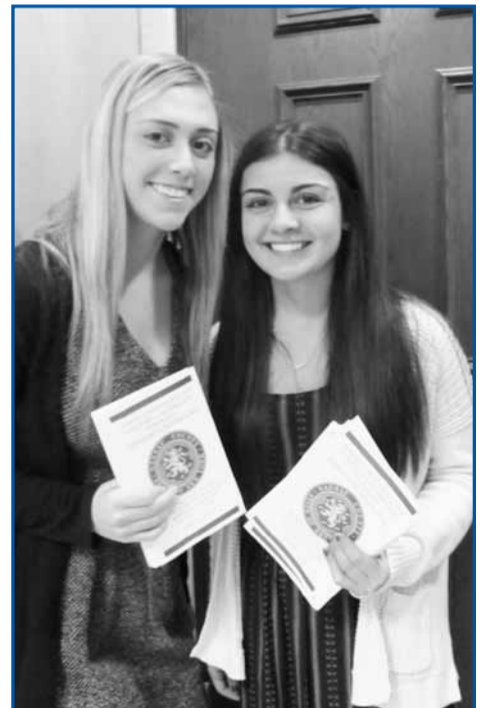
On Jan. 2, Bethpage High School's Center for the Performing Arts hosted its second inaugural celebration for Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano and Bethpage High School alumnus. In addition to bringing many high-profile politicians to the county executive's hometown, the celebration invited select students to be a part of the ceremony. Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark gave the opening address and high school senior Conor Nimmo recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The high school band performed several numbers throughout the event, as well.

"We are proud of all the Manganos, as they have embraced the civic virtues that make up this town," Mr. Clark said in his address. "We are always proud to have Edward Mangano with us. His words leave an impression on the boys and girls in our schools, who now see this Bethpage Golden Eagle as someone to emulate and follow on the path of service to others."

As part of the district's 21st Century Scholars Program, students were given an opportunity to attend the event for the experience and for program credit. "It felt like the president was here," senior Thomas Fraher shared of all the security around that day. "It was a great experience and it's so nice to see that he is a Bethpage graduate and he chose to come back here to do this," junior Isabella Bradley said.

Michael Donovan, a seventh-grader in attendance, stayed for the entire two-hour inauguration because he is interested in pursuing a career in politics. "I thought it would be interesting to hear everyone speak," he said. "I thought it was really cool. It has definitely helped me decide I want to do this."

Two seniors, both working for the high school's newspaper, *The Eagle's Cry*, received an exclusive interview with Executive Mangano following the inauguration. Editor-in-chief Dan Gottlieb and co-editor Michele Kappel had the opportunity to ask the second-term executive many hard-hitting, as well as personal, questions. You can read their interview with him at left.



## Superintendent Named Everyday Hero

Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark has been bestowed the Bethpage-Central Park Kiwanis' Everyday Hero Award for 2013. The Everyday Hero Award was created in 2006 by New York District Kiwanis Governor Joe Corace to recognize individuals who go above and beyond as part of their everyday lives. He was honored along with seven others in the community at an awards ceremony on Nov. 25.



Mr. Clark joined the Bethpage School District in 1985 as a social studies teacher. Prior to becoming superintendent three years ago, he served as director of technology and assistant superintendent for instruction and technology.

Mr. Clark has been a featured speaker around the country at events such as the National Education Computer Conference, the National School Boards Association Technology Conference, and the New York State Computers and Technology in Education Conference. He is also the author of "New York: A Documentary (Teacher's Guide)," published by PBS, which accompanied a 12-hour PBS series on the history of New York City.



# Third-Graders Read to Achieve

Third-grade students throughout the district gathered at Bethpage High School to participate in a pep rally to bolster their interest in reading and reiterate its importance in their future academic careers, as well as create a mentorship between high school scholar-athletes and elementary schoolers. A tradition for more than a decade, the program included interactive dialogue from many district administrators regarding their favorite books and discussion on why reading is so important on the road to achieving.

In introducing the high school scholar-athletes, Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark beamed, "These students behind me represent the best of the Golden Eagle traditions. They study hard, they excel in their academics and they are superb at sportsmanship on the field, and that is exactly what we love here at Bethpage. We want you to become student-athletes just like them."

The team captains, all from scholar-athlete teams at the high school, shared their favorite books with students, and some offered advice. "Even though you may practice every day and be an athlete, you always have to put your schoolwork first," one of the cheerleading captains shared.

The two-hour event also featured remarks from many special guests, including Plainview-Bethpage Lions Club President George Hannau, who distributed dictionaries to each of the third-graders. The Dictionary Project allows students to expand their vocabulary while aiding teachers in their goal to ensure all students finish the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers. This is the third year that the dictionaries, which also serve as almanacs, were distributed by the Lions Club.

Third-graders were divided into teams, under the direction of high school sports captains and scholar-athletes, with each of the young students assigned to one of the seniors. The senior athletes guided their teams through basketball- and hockey-style sports challenges. Throughout the year, these captains will visit students in their classrooms and continue to inspire them to be not only potential athletes, but also scholars.

#### Third-graders' favorite books:

- *The Wizard of Oz*
- *Green Eggs and Ham*
- *The Giving Tree*
- *Rainbow Magic series*
- *Captain Underpants*

#### Twelfth-graders' favorite books:

- *Green Eggs and Ham*
- *The Hunger Games*
- *Charlotte's Web*
- *The Very Grouchy Ladybug*
- *Captain Underpants*



## JFK Geography Bee

John F. Kennedy Middle School hosted its annual geography bee through the National Geographic Society in January. The first round was held in social studies classes, and then the top students faced off in a secondary geography challenge. The winner of the schoolwide bee was Alex Monoyos, a sixth-grader in Monica Klein's social studies class. The runner-up was Sophia Suazo, a seventh-grader in Jody Smith's social studies class who was also a runner-up in last year's bee.

Alex will take a qualifying exam to determine whether he will move on to the state finals. Results are not expected until March. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this event.

Alex Monoyos is pictured with JFK Middle School Principal Kevin Fullerton.





## Signing & Scholarships for Baseball Star

Bethpage High School senior Francisco Almanzar signed a National Letter of Intent on Nov. 14 to play Division II baseball for Dominican College in the fall, where he was accepted on early admission. The catcher for the Bethpage varsity baseball team received not only an athletic scholarship, but an academic scholarship as well. The combined scholarships will cover most of his tuition.

Francisco, who has played baseball since the age of 4, is also a member of the Long Island Titans, Next Level Titans and Marucci Titans, all national travel teams. Last spring, he was named an All-County athlete and ranked No. 22 in the Blue Chip Top 100 of Long Island. Francisco is also a member of the high school's National Honor Society, Hispanic Academic Achievement Honor Society, SADD Club, Athletes Helping Athletes and Car Club.

"He's a good hitter – he hit .375 last year," head baseball coach Rob Fischer said of the star athlete. "He also has a great arm and plays some great defense."

In addition to Fischer, Francisco was joined at the signing by Principal Michael Spence, Athletic Director John Franchi, his parents Elizabeth and Javier, and his brother Miguel, a freshman who also plays baseball for Bethpage.

## Scholar-Athletes Featured on News 12

Seniors Charles Bachmeier and Sarah Ciresi have both been featured on News 12 for receiving the station's Scholar-Athlete Award. This is the first time in many years that Bethpage High School has had more than one student selected for this award in the same school year. Charles was featured in a segment that ran in October, while Sarah was featured in January.



Charles has been co-captain of the varsity football team and is currently captain of the wrestling team. He has participated in both sports since the third grade. For his accomplishments on the field and mat, he has been named an All-County and Academic All-Conference football player, a two-time All-County wrestler, and was voted Most Outstanding Wrestler by his team in 2013. Academically, he is a member of the National Honor Society, was named an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Hispanic Recognition Scholar, and received the Xerox Technological Innovation Award.

Sarah has been doing gymnastics since the age of 3 and started competing at the age of 7. She is a two-time captain of the school's gymnastics team and has been named an All-State athlete every year since ninth grade. During the 2012-13 school year, she won nine of her 10 conference meets, and as a result was ranked fourth in the county for the second consecutive year. She was also named team MVP last year. Academically, she is a Commended Student, an AP Scholar with Distinction and a member of the National Honor Society.

Both students were chosen as News 12 Scholar-Athlete Award recipients for their outstanding dedication and achievement in both sports and academics. They were considered for the award after being nominated by their coaches, submitting an application and essay, and being chosen from a long list of applicants from across Long Island. Congratulations to both students on this honor.

# Fun with Fitness

Teachers Maria Falabella and Joanna Sieben have started an after-school fitness club at Central Boulevard School. Open to fourth- and fifth-graders as a 21st Century Scholars program, the club meets once a week for 12 weeks for each grade level. The pair started the club to keep students active while also involving them in after-school activities. At the start of each session, Ms. Falabella and Ms. Sieben discuss important aspects of health and physical fitness with the students. During the first 12-week period with fifth-graders, the teachers have covered Zumba, Pilates, kickboxing, strength training, running and the foundations of exercise.

"I enjoy being part of the Fitness Club because I like being with my friends and doing fun stuff while getting exercise," fifth-grader Isabella said.

"Working out keeps you strong mentally and physically," Ms. Falabella explained to students in a recent session. Benefits of the club include promoting students' socialization and teamwork skills, building their self-esteem and keeping them focused on schoolwork.

