

BETHPAGE

Union Free School District

NEWSLETTER

CAPITAL RESERVE PROJECTS MOVING FORWARD

The positive support that the community showed Bethpage Schools during the November 17th Capital Reserve vote enables the District to continue making necessary infrastructure improvements to its buildings. Since the passage of the proposition, plans have been submitted to the State Education Department for summer construction. This includes remodeling of the auditorium and locker rooms at JFK Middle School and replacing boilers at the High School, among the larger scale projects.

Additional work will be completed at all three elementary schools, with Central Boulevard and Charles Campagne contracts continuing into 2011 in order to operate around student summer program schedules.

Using Capital Reserve funds is another way that the District is endeavoring to minimize annual budget expenses. Without the fund, some of these essential projects would have to be paid out of the annual tax levy. With the community's support, the Board of Education created the Capital Reserve Fund to alleviate taxpayers' expenses, while meeting its goals for a good infrastructure.

The Board of Education and Central Administration are grateful to residents for their ongoing support of Bethpage students. The outcome of the Capital Reserve vote, complimentary feedback from attendees of the recent Nassau County Executive Inauguration Ceremony praising the condition of Bethpage High School, and continuous involvement of the public in District activities positively reflects the community's commitment to education.



MEET THE PRESS

Cablevision's Pat Halpin interviewed Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano in the BHS Little Theatre for a "Meet the Leaders" two-part news segment. Students Kathryn Banzer, Colin Chadderton (pictured above with Halpin and Mangano), and Michael Natalie had the opportunity to be part of the action. See story on page 3.

Be a Part of the Budget Development Process

The Board of Education is once again inviting residents to join the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of community members who have an interest in the formation of the District's annual budget. Committee meetings will be held on Thursday evenings in February at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Teachers' Cafeteria. Those interested in participating may contact the Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Business at 644-4030.

The administration is currently working to develop a budget proposal for the 2010-2011 school year. In the wake of today's adverse economic times, the District is facing difficult choices ahead, and anticipating a large cut in state aid with no regulatory relief from state

mandates. The Board of Education and Administration have already begun to seek out ways to cut expenses, purchasing restrictions being one of them. Principals and Directors have been proactive and careful in stretching current dollars to maintain the best academic programs possible while being fiscally prudent.

District educators are committed to preparing children for the challenges of the 21st century and the global competition ahead, and are rightfully proud of assessment results to date. An article printed in *The New York Times* ranks **Bethpage as the 54th highest performing school district out of 695 in the state.** This is the result of a successful collaboration among dedicated staff members, students, parents, and Board of Education members. In continuing this close community relationship, the District welcomes the ideas of those interested in being part of the budget process and encourages them to join the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee.

Bethpage Union Free School District
Bethpage, New York 11714

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2010-2011 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010 BETHPAGE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Voter registration is continuous – for more information on qualifications for voting or how to register, please contact the District Clerk's Office at 644-4002. Details will also be included in the special Budget Edition of the newsletter to be published this spring.

MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Residents,

I have been your Superintendent for six months now and I can say that while the position is challenging, it does have its perks. The most recent was being asked by our friend (and parent of two of our high school students), Ed Mangano, to host his inauguration.

I was thrilled when Ed and Linda asked if we would be open to the idea of hosting. It was a historic moment for the community and for the Bethpage School District. A great deal of preparation went into the event, and it was wonderful to see so many Bethpage people involved in the planning process. I was proud of the many students who participated. Some played in one of the two bands that performed under the direction of Mr. James Stehlik. Others served as ushers and assisted guests and dignitaries to their seats or handed out copies of the event program. Representatives of the County and the Police Department were incredibly impressed by the knowledge of our students who ran the lighting and sound for the entire event. Not many people know this, but Mr. Mangano gave his first official interview as a County Executive to Amy Gaines, a reporter for Bethpage High School's new television studio. Amy's segment can be found on our website. Katie Couric needs to watch out!

After the ceremony was over, I had the unique pleasure of sitting back and accepting accolades about our students and our school from dozens of

visitors. People commented about the beauty of the Center for the Performing Arts. The police went through every nook and cranny of the building as a security measure and said they had never been in a high school so clean (a tribute to our superb custodial staff)! Others said our bands were simply fantastic. Dignitaries noted that our students seemed full of confidence and enjoyed the way in which they comported themselves at such an event. Two different theater companies asked for the names of the stage crew students so they could hire them for summer work.

By now everyone knows that Mr. Mangano has painted his new office blue and gold. Mr. Mangano said on more than one occasion, "Once a Golden Eagle, always a Golden Eagle!" It is so true. I appreciate his giving the school community the opportunity to be part of this very special day. It was an unexpected perk for the Superintendent of Schools and I could not have been more proud.

Sincerely,



Terrence Clark
Superintendent of Schools

HS Student Visits White House



(L-R) Bethpage School District Board of Education President Mr. Thomas Frost, High School Principal Mr. Michael Spence, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Terrence Clark, and High School senior Shrey Sanghvi.

Bethpage High School senior Shrey Sanghvi took part in a unique and memorable opportunity in December – a tour of the White House. Through the WorkForce 2000 Program, an academic initiative that helps prepare teens for college and explore career interests through weekend retreats, cultural events and internships, Shrey joined four students from other districts on this trip to Washington, D.C. He enjoyed the experience of taking a firsthand look at the White House's East Wing while learning more about the United States government. Part of Shrey's participation in WorkForce 2000 involves interning at a local cardiologist's office.

Bethpage Educational Foundation Donates \$2,000

The District extends its thanks to the Bethpage Educational Foundation for presenting a very generous donation of \$2,000 to help fund Challenge Day for High School students later this school year. This kind contribution was made possible through successful fundraising efforts, including the Bethpage Day 5K race held in October. Bethpage Educational Foundation President Rich Festante visited Bethpage High School to hand-deliver a check to District administrators and the building's Challenge Day coordinators.

This will be the second year that Bethpage High School is offering Challenge Day as a way to connect students and promote positive behaviors. The program is facilitated by the nonprofit Challenge Day organization, which provides youth with workshops focusing on a celebration of diversity, truth, and full expression.



(L-R) Board of Education President Mr. Thomas Frost, student Emily Banes, School Social Worker/Challenge Day Coordinator Ms. Christine Kennedy, High School Principal Mr. Michael Spence, Bethpage Educational Foundation President Mr. Rich Festante, student Colin Chadderton, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Terrence Clark, student James Murphy, and Guidance Counselor and Challenge Day Coordinator Mr. Jay Benjamin.

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, 2010. 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.

SAFE DRIVING HAS ITS REWARDS

BHS Receives \$1,000 Allstate Grant for Successful Student Pledge

A total of 875 Bethpage High School students have promised to help keep the roads safe, participating in Allstate Insurance Company's "X the Text" thumb pledge program. As a result of this enthusiastic response, Allstate presented the High School with a \$1,000 grant to support safe-driving programs for teens.

Nearly 5,000 American teens are killed in car crashes annually, and the primary cause of 77% of fatal teen crashes is driver error and distractions. A recent Allstate Foundation study revealed that 82% of driving teens claim to use cell phones while driving, and 49% admit to being extremely distracted by texting and instant messaging while driving. Allstate Insurance introduced the "X the Text" program as an effort to help save teen lives, bringing this traveling campaign to schools across the country. Bethpage High School accepted the invitation to take part as the only Nassau school involved, while Babylon High School hosted the event in Suffolk.

Allstate Insurance representatives and other safe-driving supporters visited Bethpage High School on December 10th, where they collaborated with Principal Mr. Michael Spence and Assistant Principal

Mr. Kevin Healy in presenting brief assemblies for each grade level that highlighted the importance of driving laws.

John Mannara of Allstate's Bethpage location and Michael Barry of the Insurance Information Institute were among the facilitators. Steven

Ettannani, a representative from Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy's office, was also present to encourage safe driving steps, referencing the Alert Drivers Act. As an additional component of each assembly, a video was shared demonstrating the destructive impact of texting while driving.

"With today's technology access comes new responsibilities,"

Mr. Healy explained to students.

"You are the future drivers of this nation, and it is important that you pay attention after you leave today. Make sure you follow through on your pledge – we ask

you to take it very seriously." Mr. Healy coordinates the High School's safe-driving program, which the grant will help fund.

As the final step to the program, students lined up to stamp their thumbprints on a banner provided by Allstate, signifying their pledges to refrain from texting while driving. Staff members participated as well, to set positive examples and accept the responsibility to drive carefully.



(Top row L-R) Bethpage High School Principal Mr. Michael Spence, Assistant Principal Mr. Kevin Healy, Steven Ettannani of Congresswoman McCarthy's office, Allstate Agent John Mannara, and Michael Barry of the Insurance Information Institute, pictured with Bethpage High School seniors, give the thumbs up to safe driving after taking the pledge to "X the Text".

BHS HOSTS INAUGURATION FOR BETHPAGE NATIVE SON EDWARD MANGANO

Bethpage High School proudly hosted the inauguration of alumnus and community resident Edward Mangano as he was sworn into his new role of Nassau County Executive on January 1, 2010. Since his days as a student in the District, Mangano has been a prominent figure in the community, serving as a county legislator and supporting initiatives such as the revitalization of the Grumman property. Most recently, Mr. Mangano supported the development of the High School's new athletic complex.

The Mangano family is a pillar in the District and community – his wife, Linda, has contributed to Bethpage Schools for years as a PTA member and leader, and his sons Alex and Sal are both Bethpage High School students.

The inauguration, which was attended by public officials including U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Congressman Peter King, and Nassau County Legislature Presiding Officer Peter Schmitt, was an exciting event for Bethpage students and staff as they celebrated the success of a fellow Golden Eagle. The High School band and jazz band had the privilege of performing at the ceremony, and students participated as audience members – a unique experience for most teens – as part of the 21st Century Scholars' Program. Student and staff volunteers, along with the technology department and custodial team, also assisted behind the scenes, helping with tasks such as camera setup and lighting and sound, to serving as ushers.

"We were honored to host such an important day for Nassau County and memorable part of

Bethpage history," stated Superintendent of Schools Mr. Terrence Clark. "Nothing says more about the special nature of Bethpage than the fact that a 1980 graduate would want to hold so important an event at his alma mater. Congratulations to Ed and thank you for sharing this experience with our District and students."

Additionally, Bethpage High School's Little Theatre recently served as the filming location for Cablevision's "Meet the Leaders" segment featuring Mr. Mangano being interviewed by host and former Suffolk County Executive Pat Halpin. The interview was conducted before an audience of High School students, three of whom were invited to participate. Kathryn Banzer, Colin Chadderton, and Michael Natalie each had the opportunity to be part of a discussion with Mr. Halpin and Mr. Mangano, posing questions on topics such as leadership, education, job availability, and green initiatives and sharing their own thoughts.

When asked about the inauguration ceremony during the Cablevision interview, Mr. Mangano replied, "It was very cool to be back in my own high school and take the position of County Executive. I always had an interest in government when I was in school, and it was great to be here and take the oath of office." He also expressed fond memories of his days at Bethpage High School and teachers that helped inspire him.

Both the inauguration and interview were exciting events in the District and prime examples of the strong school-community relationship that exists in Bethpage.



Bethpage High School Class of 1980 graduate Ed Mangano is sworn in as Nassau County Executive before a packed audience in his alma mater's Center for the Performing Arts.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The District is conducting Kindergarten Registration for its three elementary schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Children born before December 1, 2005 are eligible for enrollment.

The dates are:

Kramer Lane ES: February 23, 24, and 25
Central Boulevard ES: March 3 and 4
Charles Campagne ES: February 25 and 26

Parents should contact the main office of each school prior to those dates to receive paperwork that can be completed in advance. (KL: 644-4500; CBS: 644-4300; and CC: 644-4400. To determine your child's school, please call 644-4060. Registration will take place at the respective schools during normal school hours.

Coming Together for Reading

Read to Achieve a Districtwide Celebration

The District's annual Read to Achieve event was once again a success, hosted at the High School and attended by teen athletes, third graders, and educators. As in years past, the activity inspired third grade students from Central Boulevard, Charles Campagne, and Kramer Lane Elementary Schools to realize the importance and value of reading both now and in the future. High School athletic team captains served as role models for their younger peers by describing the many benefits that they have gained through reading.

Read to Achieve is sponsored by Cablevision, a longtime corporate partner of the Bethpage School District. Superintendent of Schools Mr. Terrence Clark, High School Principal Mr. Michael Spence, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology Mr. John DeTommaso, Director of English Language Arts Dr. Mary Hannon, and Director of Physical Education, Health, and Athletics Mr. John Franchi facilitated the event, each providing the audience with their own personal message about the values of reading.

Mr. Clark welcomed all attendees, explaining, "When you get to Bethpage High School we want you to continue that tradition of reading and being good scholars. We are very proud of the Classes of 2010 and 2019 that are here."

Mr. Spence emphasized the importance of putting

forward as much effort as possible, encouraging students to "Push yourselves to be the best you can be."

Mr. DeTommaso praised the student athletes as "...great leaders of their teams. They are all excellent readers and great students, and know that it is important to spend that extra time reading."

Dr. Hannon posed questions to the third graders, asking them if they enjoy reading and what they think makes a person a good reader.

Mr. Franchi introduced the student athletes and described what makes them great students. "Athlete is the second part, student is the first," he noted. "Being a scholar athlete starts with reading at the elementary level. We want to see you here on the teams, but most importantly to do well in the classrooms." The team captains then spoke, sharing their reading experiences and favorite book titles.

The High School Cheerleaders and Golden Girls Kickline Team inspired a round of applause for reading, with the Golden Eagle mascot offering plenty of high-fives. The third graders enjoyed watching their teachers shoot hoops, and had the opportunity to do so themselves with assistance from the student athletes. As a special highlight, students visited the New York Knicks "Groove Truck" outside, where they took basketball shots and were presented with free gifts.



Students enjoyed the "Groove Truck" set up by the New York Knicks.



Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Mr. John Franchi, joined by the Golden Eagle mascot, praised the student athletes.

Harlem MagicMasters Take Positive Messages to JFK Classrooms and Courts



Bethpage JFK Blizzards with Harlem MagicMasters basketball players.

Students at JFK Middle School are now pros when it comes to good sportsmanship, working hard in school, and staying on the right track, thanks to guidance from the Harlem MagicMasters basketball team. The team tours throughout the world, combining the enjoyment of athletics with youth mentorship.

The Harlem MagicMasters visited JFK over the course of a week in November. The players spoke to students in their classrooms, spreading positive messages that encouraged the teens to respect their parents and teachers, attend school regularly and put forth their best efforts, and say NO to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.

As a culminating activity, the MagicMasters faced off against JFK staff members in a basketball game. The staff dubbed themselves the JFK Blizzards and while the MagicMasters won by a score of 96-64, students and parents in the audience cheered the Blizzards' skills on the court.

LIONS CLUB HONORS JFK PEACE POSTER ARTISTS

Seven JFK Middle School students were commended as winners and runners-up of the Plainview-Bethpage Lions Club's annual Peace Poster Contest. The students were asked to capture the "Power of Peace" in their poster designs, and did an excellent job.

Plainview-Bethpage Lions Club Immediate Past President Lois Bisca and Past District Governor Steven Lesetz visited JFK to congratulate overall winner Dominique Collura (8th grade), 8th grade winner Deena Hadhoud, 8th grade runner-up Emily Brass, 7th grade winner Melissa Marietto, 7th grade runner-up Cynthia Dabrowski, 6th grade winner Megan Hsun, and 6th grade runner-up Terrie Hsun. Each honoree received a bond award and had their work displayed at a Bethpage Library exhibit.



Plainview-Bethpage Lions Club Past District Governor Steven Lesetz and Immediate Past President Lois Bisca with JFK Middle School poster contest winners and Principal Mrs. Kerri McCarthy.

Student Civic Spreads the Giving Spirit

Bethpage High School Student Civic members went above and beyond in their winter volunteer efforts, bringing seasonal cheer to those less fortunate. The group's outreach included a party for children at Bethany House in Roosevelt on December 17th, free turkey coupon donations to the Gerald Ryan Outreach Center in Wyandanch prior to Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve assistance at the Mercy Inn Soup Kitchen in Wyandanch, and more.

The High School students provided children and mothers of Bethany House with a night of festive activities, good food, and great company during the group party. Pizza and cake were served, after which ornaments were decorated.

On the days of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, several Student Civic members braved the winter weather and busy roads to visit the Mercy Inn Soup Kitchen in Wyandanch. While many were finishing up their last-minute holiday shopping on Christmas Eve, Jen Emmet, Alexa Gold, Simon Jambrone, Andy Melendez, and

Amy Stuppiello spent the morning and afternoon preparing and serving lunch to about 50 thankful guests. The day was completed with donations of winter gear and small gifts handed out by the students, who also stayed to help clean up.

After finding the Christmas Eve experience so rewarding, several students asked to work at the soup kitchen again on New Year's Eve. Mrs. DeAngelis and her daughters Samantha and Nicolette joined Alexa Gold, Simon Jambrone and Dessiree Pendleton in assembling and distributing lunch for the appreciative recipients as all celebrated the commencement of 2010.

The High School students' volunteer efforts were coordinated under the leadership of Mrs. Jackie Jill-Rito, Student Civic advisor. Proud of her students, Mrs. Jill-Rito stated, "It certainly seems that 2010 is off to a strong start when parents, students, education and cooperation form to enrich community in possibly small, but profound ways."



Charles Campagne Authors Celebrate their Work



First graders at Charles Campagne Elementary School became "published" authors in December, after completing Writer's Workshop sessions held in the classrooms. The children learned and experienced the writing and illustrating processes firsthand. The end result was individual creative stories that students were proud to share during a special celebration attended by guests, including Superintendent Mr. Terrence Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology Mr. John DeTommaso, and ELA Director Dr. Mary Hannon.

Pictured, Mrs. Sandi Saltzman led her first-grade students in sharing their work.

Kramer Lane Students UP - CYCLE

Kramer Lane Elementary School fourth-graders have been working together to make a difference in the environment. Classes have joined in various service projects as part of their participation in the "Schools Go Green" project with News 12 Long Island. One of these initiatives is an "up-cycling" project with TerraCycle, the makers of eco-friendly products sold at major retail stores.



The students collect and sort food packages such as chip bags and snack wrappers, then box and send them to TerraCycle for recycling. TerraCycle uses the materials to create "green" school supplies, gardening products, household cleaners, and more. Additionally, TerraCycle donates money to the Kramer Lane PTA or any charity of choice for every wrapper or bag the school collects.

Central Boulevard Ends 2009 on a Good Note

Central Boulevard School held its annual winter concert in December, at which students performed a variety of musical compositions. Demonstrating the talents and skills learned in music classes, the band, orchestra, and chorus members put on an excellent show! Winter concerts were also held at Charles Campagne and Kramer Lane Elementary Schools, JFK Middle School, and Bethpage High School.



BHS Hosts Drug Prevention Programs

The District recognizes concerns facing parents and teens today, and has taken proactive steps in helping to prevent drug use among students in the community. The High School hosted a community forum on drug dangers in the fall, which was attended by school officials and parents from several neighboring areas in addition to Bethpage. As another part of its ongoing effort to promote safety and drug awareness, the High School enlisted the expertise of the Nassau District Attorney's office in presenting their "Not My Child" seminar to students and parents.

The community forum was coordinated in collaboration with the YES Community Counseling Center, the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, the Nassau County Police Department, and several other school districts. The forum featured several guest presenters, including Dr. Steven Dewey, Center for Neuroscience Investigator; Ms. Teresa Corrigan, Nassau County District Attorney's Office Bureau Chief of Street Narcotics and Gangs; Ms. Jamie Bogenshutz, YES Community Counseling Center Executive Director; and Ms. Linda Diorio, who lost her

son to a heroin overdose.

Students also attended the "Not My Child" presentation as part of the 21st Century Learning Initiative, many of them accompanied by parents. Deputy Bureau Chief of Street Narcotics and Gangs Ms. Chris Fexas facilitated the program, leading a discussion on the characteristics of stereotypical addicts, sharing stories of local teens affected by drugs, and showing before-and-after pictures that demonstrated the physical consequences of drug use via PowerPoint. She also played a portion of a video from a press conference that the District Attorney's office held after an overdose case.

Deputy Chief Fexas explained that drug addicts are not always easy to identify, noting that both students and parents should be wary of appeals made by users and dealers to children and common paraphernalia hiding places among teen users. She additionally revealed statistics from District Attorney investigations, pointing out that twenty-five heroin-related deaths have been confirmed in



Dr. Steven Dewey, Investigator for the Center for Neuroscience, describes the effect alcohol has on the human brain.

Nassau County from January-July 2009.

As another element of the seminar, Narcotics and Gang Bureau Paralegal Ms. Nora Amarati spoke from a parent's perspective. She discussed the experience her family went through after her son, Philip, faced heroin addiction and was arrested as a result. Mrs. Amarati expressed the impact that drug use has, not only on the addict's current life, but also on their family, friends, and future.

As part of the District's ongoing partnership with the Nassau District Attorney's office and other experts in drug prevention, Dr. Dewey will return to Bethpage High School on the evening of March 11th for a follow-up presentation.

A Musical "Opera"-Tunity

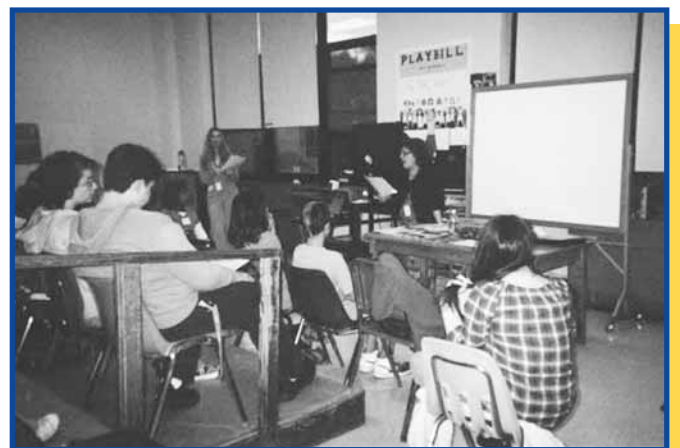
Bethpage students have the unique privilege of experiencing the opera, thanks to a partnership District Coordinator of Choral and Classroom Music Mrs. Deborah Stehlik established with the Metropolitan Opera through BOCES Arts-in-Education. This series of opportunities is, at the Long Island level, exclusive to Bethpage and includes an assortment of HD Live opera performances transmitted live to theatres, staff training from Met professionals, actual trips to the Met, and much more.

Bethpage staff members Michelle Cooper and Amy McGrath, who teach music at JFK Middle School and Central Boulevard School, respectively, attended the three-day Metropolitan Opera HD Live in Schools National Workshop this past fall. Since completing the training sessions, they have been utilizing the curriculum, outlines, and other materials they gained to teach opera in 7th-12th grade classrooms and provide guidance to fellow staff members.

The District also received tickets for 50 students and staff members to enjoy operas transmitted live to local cinemas, including Regal 12 Westbury Movie Stadium and Port Washington Cinema. The group enjoyed *Turnadot* in November, *Tales of Hoffman* in December, and *Carmen* in January, and is anticipating a performance of *Armida* in May. As a special highlight of the program, Middle and High School students will visit the Met in March for a backstage tour and dress rehearsal of *Hamlet*.

HD Live in Schools is a free educational program that is made possible through a grant from Bank of America, and serves students and educators across the country through the training and opportunities provided. "We are thrilled to be part of this partnership opportunity with BOCES and the Met," Mrs. Stehlik said. "The curriculum is exciting for our students and the HD Live programs and Met rehearsal are providing our 21st Century Scholars with outstanding experiences."

Reflective upon the enthusiasm of staff as well as students, the Met has asked Bethpage to partner for its 2010-2011 school year program, as well.



ACE-ing Their Job and Life Experiences ⁷



Job coach Mrs. Rose Vezzi assists Emma Coletta, Emily Storz, Philip Formica, and Matthew Cereoli as they wrap silverware at TGI Fridays.



(L-R) Christopher McLean, Matthew Cereoli, Stevie Clinco, and Philip Formica with their team's toy selections.

Bethpage High School's ACE (Academic and Career Experience) program, facilitated by the PPS (Pupil Personnel Services) Department, offers students an assortment of opportunities for building life skills and preparing for future jobs. The students, accompanied by teachers and job coaches, visit job sites on a weekly basis, where they learn about and assist with day-to-day operations.

The ACE program is comprised of students in grades 9-12, and involves a full year of job site training. The students volunteer at TGI Fridays, Old Navy, Erga Bakery, and Dunkin' Donuts, as well as the Bethpage School District Offices, where some complete filing assignments. They also attend trips to various community locations, which have included the Bethpage Library, where they received library cards and took a tour; the Broadway Mall, where they practiced navigating the various stores; and the Plainview Diner. These events teach the participants to manage everyday aspects of life, such as getting to and from a job on their own, and spending within a budget.

In addition to providing learning experiences, the ACE Program emphasizes positive messages and motives. One recent trip to a Toys R' Us, held as part of a Toys for Tots activity, prompted students to work together as teams, compare the prices of toys, and shop appropriately for different gift recipients. At the same time, the exercise reinforced an enthusiasm for generosity and kindness to others. ACE students also helped spread holiday cheer in December when they volunteered at the Harry Chapin Carpenter Food Bank in Hauppauge, where they bagged a total of 550 lbs. of food. Following each field trip, classroom lessons and exercises are held to incorporate various subject areas and skills into the activities' themes.

ACE teachers/job coaches Mrs. Maureen Mendolia and Mrs. Rose Vezzi direct the students in their work. School Psychologist Ms. Suzanne Brunelle was instrumental in establishing the connections with the job sites, along with ACE teacher Mrs. Ida Barry. Executive Director of PPS and Special Education Mrs. Patricia Hantzidiamantis oversees the program.

Leon LaSpina Receives National Math Award

Congratulations to High School mathematics teacher Mr. Leon LaSpina for being recognized as a winner in the Mathematical Association of America's (MAA) 2009 Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching. This year, only 22 educators across the United States and Canada received this annual honor.

Selection for the award, which was developed in memory of former math instructor Edyth May Sliffe through a generous bequest, was based upon AMC 12 test results. Students from the 60 highest scoring teams had the opportunity to nominate their teacher, and Bethpage High School's 2009 team members Gautam Dagur, Hyun Jeong, and Kevin Sackel are to thank for Mr. LaSpina's distinction.

Mr. LaSpina received a monetary award as well as a commemorative certificate and pin, a complimentary one-year Institutional membership in the MAA for Bethpage High School - which provides books and articles on contemporary mathematics and recent developments at the frontiers of math research from which students can benefit - 20 subscriptions to "Math Horizons" for distribution to students, and a year's membership in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

Mr. LaSpina has taught at the High School for the last 14 years, and also coaches the Mathletes and Computer Programming Teams - both of which he has led to many victories. He also writes problems for the Nassau County Math Tournament and the Nassau County Junior Math League. Additionally, Mr. LaSpina and his student, Kevin Sackel, co-authored the article, "New Formula for Counting Lattice Points," which was published in the NCTM's "Mathematics Teachers Journal" last year.



(L-R) Bethpage High School Principal Mr. Michael Spence, Director of Mathematics Angel Kozlowski, Board of Education President Mr. Thomas Frost, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Terrence Clark, and teacher Mr. Leon LaSpina.

HS ATHLETIC COMPLEX SET FOR PHASE 2

Since being initially unveiled in September, the new Athletic Complex has rewarded the District and community on almost a daily basis and will soon be entering its second phase of completion. In cooperation with the Town of Oyster Bay, the District is moving forward with the installation of new home bleachers, a press box, a new concession stand and restrooms. This work will commence this spring and is expected to be complete by the first week of June, **enabling the District to host its first-ever Friday night graduation under the lights on June 25th.**

During its first season, the new synthetic turf field served Bethpage sports teams well. The soccer teams once again enjoyed playing at their home school rather than at Central Boulevard, and the field has held up well in the face of some torrential rains during home football games. High School physical education students and hundreds

of children enrolled in PAL programs have also utilized the track and field for a variety of activities.

The bleacher replacement construction will take place during lacrosse season. During this time, all spectators will be asked to use the visitors' bleachers, which will be made more accessible by a new walkway. The press box will be assembled in late April, with the arrival of the new bleachers. The building that will house the concession stand and restrooms is to be constructed in late May.

"We are fortunate that the Town of Oyster Bay has invested so much time and so many resources to improve the recreational facilities in Bethpage," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Terrence Clark. "When visitors see the new athletic complex, the TOBAY Ice Skating Rink,



and Borella Field, they often comment about how lucky we are to have such first-class facilities surrounding us."

In addition to the Town's generosity, the Bethpage Baseball Association (BBAI) has played a major role in upgrading the District's baseball facilities. Both the BBAI and PAL help make Bethpage a special community focused on engaging children in positive activities.

Melissa Rohr Signs Letter of Intent for Lacrosse



Melissa Rohr was accompanied by family members and school faculty as she signed a Letter of Intent to attend and play lacrosse at C.W. Post. Top row: (L-R) Bethpage School District Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Mr. John Franchi, Melissa's brother Justin Rohr (a BHS sophomore), and BHS Principal Mr. Michael Spence. Bottom row (L-R) Ronnie Rohr (Melissa's mother), Melissa Rohr, and Ralph Rohr (Melissa's father).

Bethpage High School senior Melissa Rohr recently signed a Letter of Intent to play lacrosse at Long Island University's C.W. Post Campus. Melissa has played on the High School Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team for four years while also participating as a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team.

In addition to her athletic involvement, Melissa serves as Student Council Treasurer and National Honor Society Vice President. She has contributed to a number of school programs and events, including Athletes Helping Athletes and Read to Achieve. Melissa plans to study either education or psychology in college.

Jordan Schessler Named News 12 Scholar-Athlete

Bethpage High School senior Jordan Schessler was recently named a News 12 Long Island Scholar-Athlete, earning an award certificate, as well as a segment and interview featured on Cablevision's News 12. This honor is presented to versatile student athletes who demonstrate academic excellence as well as community involvement.

Jordan has played on the Girls Varsity Softball Team every year she has been attending Bethpage High School, and participated on the Girls Varsity Volleyball Team for two years. She has served as captain of both squads. Jordan has also positively contributed to her school and community as a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), and Student Council, for which she serves as Senior Class Senator.

In addition to the Scholar-Athlete distinction, Jordan is the winner of the Fran B. Nocella Award, presented by the Nassau County Coaches Association. This honor is bestowed upon students who exhibit an exceptional work ethic, leadership, sportsmanship, and academics, including those who participate in community service and extracurricular activities. Jordan also volunteers for National Lymphedema Networks. Last year, she coordinated a schoolwide scavenger hunt to raise money in support of treatment for the medical condition, and she is continuing her efforts this year, as well.

Jordan plans to attend Muhlenberg College, where she will continue to play softball.



(L-R) High School Principal Mr. Michael Spence, Scholar-Athlete Jordan Schessler, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Mr. John Franchi, and High School Girls Softball and Volleyball Coach Anne DiPrima.