



Over 60 Years of Service

Forum

SAVE THE DATE

CHILD ABUSE WORKSHOP

JANUARY 14, 2025
FEBRUARY 25, 2025
APRIL 8, 2025

VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKSHOP

JANUARY 16, 2025
FEBRUARY 27, 2025
APRIL 10, 2025

DASA WORKSHOP

JANUARY 22, 2025
MARCH 3, 2025
APRIL 28, 2025
JUNE 2, 2025

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

MARCH 24, 2025

Dedicated Staff Keeps Programs Thriving

Dear Readers,

Wishing all of our readers and families a very Happy New Year and a healthy and prosperous 2025! The holidays are now over and winter has set in over Long Island. During these cold winter months, SCOPE's staff has begun the process of preparing for the 2025-2026 school year.

SCOPE continues to be the leading agency for school-age child care on Long Island. All SCOPE child care programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Each day, more than 7,000 children attend before-school and after-school programs. SCOPE child care staff are highly qualified and well trained, providing the children attending our programs with a safe, fun and appropriate experience each day. It is because of the hard work and dedication of our staff that this program continues to grow each year and thousands of children are kept safe and happy both before and after school. Each year, SCOPE works to improve the programs we offer. SCOPE before- and after-school programs provide children with an appropriately balanced experience, allowing children time to interact and socialize with their peers, have fun while learning, participate in fitness activities and take part in various activities of interest to the children.

In addition to the before- and after-school child care, SCOPE provides universal prekindergarten and enrichment programs to thousands of children on Long Island. Currently, SCOPE UPK classes can be found in 34 school districts and provide our youngest learners with unique opportunities to prepare for the start of kindergarten, learn how to work cooperatively with their peers and enter kindergarten ready to begin their K-12 learning experience. SCOPE provides UPK to approximately 4,000 children daily. SCOPE

teachers and teaching assistants are all New York State certified and are among the most devoted and hardest-working professionals in our public schools.

SCOPE enrichment programs provide K-6 children attending our public schools with the opportunity to enhance their daily instruction. Children attending SCOPE enrichment may participate in a variety of activities including foreign language, science, technology, art, music and other areas of interest. Thousands of children will take part in SCOPE enrichment programs this year. Programs may be offered on weekends, after school and during the summer vacation. Each district's enrichment program is tailored and unique, meeting the needs of the children attending. SCOPE enrichment programs currently operate in 48 public schools on Long Island and each year the number of districts participating grows.

SCOPE's mission is to "meet the many diverse needs of the families, children, educational professional/paraprofessional staff and school districts located on Long Island." We are proud that no child is ever left out of a SCOPE program due to financial need or physical disability. Thank you to the entire SCOPE staff and school districts that through their membership and participation assist us in achieving our mission. A special thank you to our SCOPE families who choose our programs!

Wishing each of you a mild winter, an early arrival of spring, and may all of the children have a very successful finish to the school year.

Sincerely,

George L. Duffy
Executive Director/CEO

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization currently celebrating our 60th year, is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to public-school districts on Long Island and in New York State."

George L. Duffy, Executive Director/CEO

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SCOPE Receives Excellence in Education Award

SCOUTING AMERICA SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HONORS ORGANIZATION

SCOPE Education Services, a nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of services to students and educators across Long Island, was presented with the Excellence in Education Award from the Suffolk County Council of Scouting America.

The award was presented at the 39th annual Excellence in Education and Good Deeds Award dinner at Watermill Caterers in Smithtown on Nov. 20. Executive Director and CEO George Duffy accepted the award on behalf of SCOPE.

“It’s all about the kids, it’s all about the children we serve,” Mr. Duffy said, citing many of SCOPE’s programs, including before- and after-school child care, universal prekindergarten, outdoor education, enrichment courses, professional development for teachers and scholarships for high school valedictorians. SCOPE also supports various community organizations including the scouts.

Mr. Duffy, a retired school superintendent, joined SCOPE in 2006. The organization was founded in 1964 and is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide educational services and resources.

SCOPE is one of Long Island’s largest employers, with a staff of nearly 2,000 providing various services throughout Long Island. The organization’s child care programs serve roughly 12,000 children, and its UPK programs in more than 30 school districts have a combined enrollment exceeding 4,000 children.

“Each individual in our organization contributes to this success,” Mr. Duffy said.

Michael Flynn, the CEO of Western Suffolk BOCES and last year’s recipient of the Excellence in Education Award, commended the work of SCOPE, Mr. Duffy and his team.

“The impact of SCOPE on Long Island is enormous,” Mr. Flynn said. “There is nothing these wonderful people would not do to respond to the needs of school districts.”

Recognizing SCOPE from Scouting America were Taliesin Powell, senior district executive from the Suffolk County Council, and Don Ghee, a past chairman of the Matinecock scouting district. Town of Huntington Councilwoman Brooke Lupinacci presented the organization with a proclamation.



Evolving Pre-K Program Meets Needs of Young Learners

Prekindergarten has evolved significantly over the past few years, reflecting shifts in education philosophy, updated research and ever-changing societal needs. SCOPE is honored to have been selected to provide universal prekindergarten classes in 34 school districts this school year.

All of SCOPE's 174 UPK classes, spread out in Nassau and Suffolk counties, are structured to comply with current research and the more rigorous expectations set by the Office of Early Learning in the New York State Education Department. The chart reflects the changes in the program over the past several years:

THEN

NOW

FOCUS ON EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

Prekindergarten programs historically centered on socialization and play with less emphasis on academic skills.

There is a greater integration of early learning standards, including foundational literacy, math and social-emotional skills. In the 34 school districts we partner with, the pre-K curriculum and assessments are aligned with the districts' expectations for kindergarten readiness.

EXPANSION OF ACCESS AND EQUITY

Pre-K programs were primarily private and limited to families that could afford them.

Publicly funded pre-K has expanded, with programs like Head Start and state-level initiatives making early education accessible to more families, regardless of the socioeconomic level of the community.

EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Social skills were informally addressed through play and interaction.

There is now a much more structured focus on social-emotional learning (SEL), teaching children emotional regulation, empathy and problem-solving as critical components of early development.

INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology was rarely used in pre-K classrooms.

Tablets, interactive whiteboards and educational software are far more common. They are used to supplement traditional teaching methods. However, this shift is often balanced with concerns about screen time.

RESEARCH-BASED APPROACHES

Teaching practices were largely based on tradition and teacher preferences.

Programs now rely on evidence-based approaches to instruction, with guiding methods attached to play-based learning, scaffolding and family engagement.

TEACHER TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pre-K teachers often had less formal training compared to K-12 educators.

Many states, including New York State, require specialized training and certification. In New York you must be certified in the B-2 (birth to grade 2) level or N-6 (nursery through grade 6) levels to be able to teach pre-K. This separation underscores the importance of being uniquely skilled to work with young learners.

GREATER RECOGNITION OF PLAY-BASED LEARNING

Play was often seen as separate from academic preparation.

Play is now recognized as a vital method for children to explore, learn and develop cognitive and social skills. SCOPE is mindful of the need to integrate academic instruction through play-based activities.

INCLUSION OF FAMILIES

Family involvement was less formalized.

SCOPE's pre-K programs include family engagement components, having regular communication and ways for families to participate in their child's learning.

THE UNIVERSAL PRE-K MOVEMENT

Universal pre-K has been a distant goal, often weakly supported.

Many states and cities now actively support universal prekindergarten. Districts throughout New York State actively emulate and work to put in place the full-day pre-K program that has been in place in New York City.



School-Age Child Care: A NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER RECAP

The holiday months in SCOPE's before- and after-school programs focused on kindness, community and giving back. The time of year brought a special kind of magic filled with festive celebrations, songs, literature, crafts and food.

During the holiday season, programs performed several charitable acts for their communities:

- Collecting food for local food pantries.
- Writing letters and sending to nursing homes.
- Writing letters, collecting small toys and drawing pictures for children who are in the hospital this holiday season.
- Collecting pajamas to give to homeless shelters.

Also, the students in Sachem North High School English Honor Society visited the Sachem SACC After School programs to read to them their favorite books.



After-School Enrichment Program Sparks Creativity and Innovation

Children in Comsewogue, Floral Park-Bellerose, Garden City, Great Neck, Jericho, Northport, Quogue and Wyandanch are exploring creativity and building valuable skills through an engaging after-school enrichment program. From coding and robotics to arts and crafts, the program offers a diverse array of activities tailored to spark curiosity and innovation among young learners.

In a recent session, students worked on designing Lego gear bots and tackled STEAM challenges that combined engineering and teamwork. Younger participants delved into winter-themed arts and crafts, creating festive decorations while honing fine motor skills. Meanwhile, older students learned to upcycle materials into creative art projects, promoting sustainability. The program

aims to provide a safe, stimulating environment where students can discover their passions and expand their horizons beyond the classroom.

School districts looking to enhance summer learning opportunities are partnering with SCOPE Education Services to create dynamic and engaging programs for students. SCOPE collaborates closely with districts to design customized offerings, including academic enrichment, STEM activities, arts, fitness and theater. These programs aim to keep students inspired, active and learning throughout the summer months, fostering personal growth and a love of discovery in a fun, supportive environment.



SCOPE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Online registration for winter/spring courses are now available online at www.scopeonline.us. SCOPE is an approved sponsor of continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE).

Along with several popular courses that continue to be offered, there are 10 NEW courses listed in this current catalog. They are as follows:

- The Educator's Guide to Decluttering and Enhancing Productivity.
- The Power of Projects and Presentations for Student-Centered Learning.
- Empowering Student Voice in the Classroom.
- Yada, Yada, Yada: A Look at Pedagogy Through Seinfeld.
- Integrating Technology to Enhance Students' Language Skills.
- Portrait of a Well Rounded Teacher.
- How to Live to 100 and Love It!
- Supporting ELLs in Math Class.
- Supercharge Your Google Slides: Strategies for Spicing Up Your Students' Learning.
- ACEs 101: What's in Your Student's Backpack? – K-12.

The best testament to our course offerings, of course, are the comments that participants took the time to make at the conclusion of their coursework with SCOPE. Take a look at some of them:

"I came away with a great variety of materials and techniques that I could employ immediately. It doesn't get better than that!"

"I loved the creativity aspect of the course. Making presentations was a fun way to learn!"

"It was much more challenging than I expected, but in a good way!"

"What a great course! I loved all of the articles and videos posted. So much valuable and resourceful information was available."

Congratulations Are in Order APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BALDWIN

Superintendent Joins Elite Educators Network

Baldwin School District Superintendent Dr. Shari Camhi has been invited as a founding member of the nation's Network of Distinguished Educators – a select group of 24 superintendents from across the country who are dedicated to



enhancing public education. The network was launched through a collaboration between the School Superintendents Association and PDK International, with the stated goal to support the needs of superintendents who have proven success with impact.

EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES

Superintendent of Schools

Eastern Suffolk BOCES announces that Dr. Jasmin Varela has been appointed as the agency's district superintendent. She assumes the responsibility of leading one of the largest Board of Cooperative Educational Services in New York State. Dr. Varela will serve as the chief executive officer for the Board of Education. She will also fill the crucial role of serving as the direct representative of the Commissioner of Education to our 51 component school districts.

Dr. Varela brings exceptional diverse educational experience to the position, including her most recent role as deputy superintendent for Community School District 9 in the Bronx. She has served as an English language arts and Title I reading specialist helping to teach English as a new language overseas in Latin America and East Asia, and helped establish an international school for newly arrived students (6-12) and became its founding assistant principal. Dr. Varela holds a bachelor's degree from Hunter College, a master's degree from Cambridge College, a certificate of advanced graduate study from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and a doctorate from St. John's University.



HALF HOLLOW HILLS

Interim Superintendent of Schools

The Half Hollow Hills Board of Education appointed Brian Conboy as interim superintendent of schools for the district. Mr. Conboy brings a wealth of experience to the district, having worked for 40 years in the field of education. As the district's transition plan continues, the Board will begin working with Western Suffolk BOCES on the search for a permanent superintendent of schools.



Conboy served as superintendent of the Seaford School District from 2010 to 2017, and later as the interim superintendent in both the Massapequa and Babylon school districts. Most recently, he worked as the interim principal of Floral Park Memorial High School.

WYANDANCH

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

The Wyandanch Union Free School District named Dr. Michelle Kwon as interim assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Dr. Kwon joins the district with more than two decades of education experience, including most recently serving as the principal of Saxton Middle School in Patchogue since 2021.

Prior to her role in Patchogue, Dr. Kwon held positions as assistant principal of Baldwin High School and curriculum coordinator for ELA, reading and library for grades 6-12 in the Deer Park School District. She



holds a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in special education from St. John's University, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Teachers College Columbia University, an advanced certificate in educational leadership from Stony Brook University and a doctoral degree in educational administration and supervision from St. John's University.



PORT JEFFERSON

Teachers Enriched at Science Education Day

Two science educators from Earl L. Vandermeulen High School, Amanda Perovich and Melissa Garcia, took part in the highly anticipated Science Education Day at Brookhaven National Laboratory, which provides K-12 educators with cutting-edge scientific research and teaching strategies. The event brought together science teachers from across the region for a professional development workshop. This year's theme celebrated the 10th anniversary of the National Synchrotron Light Source II. Ms. Perovich and Ms. Garcia engaged in a series of hands-on activities focused on physical science, learning about the physics behind NSLS-II and exploring topics such as properties of matter, types of light and accelerator science.



WILLIAM FLOYD

Milken Educator Award Winner

John Melandro, a fifth grade teacher at Tangier Smith Elementary School, was selected as a Milken Educator Award winner, a prestigious national honor that recognizes exceptional educators for their dedication to excellence in the profession. The award, also known as the "Oscar of Teaching," includes a \$25,000 cash prize and entrance into a national network of Milken Educator award winners.

FLORAL PARK-BELLEROSE

Sewing Club Makes Its Debut

John Lewis Childs School students are learning how to properly thread a needle and stitch in the new after-school Sewing Club, which officially kicked off in October. The club aims to teach sewing basics to students in grades 1-4. Due to

popular demand, the club is being offered in three separate 10-week sessions. For the first project, the students learned the blanket stitch and are making apple-shaped pincushions. There are plans for the students to make their own drawstring bags, pillows and stuffed animals.



RIVERHEAD

Legacy of Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Celebrated

Pulaski Street Intermediate School hosted its annual P.F.C. Garfield M. Langhorn Memorial Ceremony to honor the legacy and contributions of Riverhead's only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. Each year, hundreds of Pulaski sixth graders enter the P.F.C. Garfield M. Langhorn essay contest, conveying what being a hero means to them, how Langhorn's model behavior inspires them, and their plans to serve the Riverhead community and beyond. The winners of this year's contest were Frederick Boese, Joel Dupree and Mateo Ramirez. The ceremony also honored local veterans and their families.

MINEOLA

Connecting With Nature in Learning Garden

Learners at Jackson Avenue School are focused on cultivating environmental stewardship through hands-on garden and food education while learning valuable skills in the school's Learning Garden. Students are planting, caring for and harvesting the vegetables and flowers that were planted in the spring, as well as raking and composting leaves and



keeping the beds and pond area clean and free of litter or debris.

Additionally, art students are collaborating to create rotating exhibits that will be on display in the Learning Garden.

ISLIP

Cookie Archaeologists Practice Excavating

Acting as "cookie archaeologists," sixth graders at Islip Middle School recently practiced excavating – the exposure, processing and recording of archaeological remains – using chocolate chip cookies. The students made detailed drawings of their cookies, then tallied and recorded data on the chips they removed.



BAYPORT-BLUE POINT

Elementary Students Dream Big on Career Day

Blue Point Elementary students learned about interesting professions during the highly anticipated Career Day event. Parents, grandparents and community members visited kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms to share their exciting career paths. The diverse lineup of professionals offered an inspiring glimpse into their daily responsibilities. Students joined in the fun by dressing as the professionals they hope to become one day.



ROCKY POINT

Marching Band Performs at Newsday Festival

The Rocky Point High School Marching Band performed in the 2024 Newsday Marching Band Festival in Uniondale on Oct. 22. The students performed a challenging production called "Action Heroes." Student percussionist Kristian Hald was named a nominee for the 2024 Gina Pelletiere Award of Recognition.

NEWS INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS



SACHEM Passing Down Sachem School Spirit

A generation of Sachem students passed down their school spirit to the next at the first-ever Sachem kindergarten-senior walk on Oct. 24. The kindergarten class from each of Sachem's 10 elementary schools visited the high school on their side of the district. They lined up at one end of the football field while members of the senior class who went to their elementary school lined up at the opposite endzone. The seniors met the kindergartners at the 50-yard line to "pass on the torch" and welcome the youngest students into the Sachem family. The seniors gifted them bracelets and pins and spent time talking to the kindergartners.



SEWANHAKA Pink It Up Day for Breast Cancer Awareness

The New Hyde Park Memorial High School community came together for the ninth annual Pink It Up Day on Oct. 1. At the start of the school day, students and staff, decked out head to toe in pink, gathered in the courtyard for the annual pink ribbon photo, symbolizing unity and strength in the fight against cancer. This event was created by English teacher Katie Kaspar, who is a nine-year cancer survivor.



SAG HARBOR Pierson Students Travel to the Met Opera

Students enrolled in Pierson High School's International Baccalaureate Spanish and ENL classes traveled to Manhattan to view the final dress rehearsal of "Ainadamar" at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. The class trip was made possible through the Met Opera's "Access Opera" program, which provides school groups the opportunity to watch final run-through rehearsals before opening night.

OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH Theodore Roosevelt School Celebrates

Theodore Roosevelt School celebrated the ribbon-cutting of its new wing on Oct. 26, just before the birthday of its namesake. The ceremony, held in the gymnasium, gathered administrators, parents, students and Board of Education members to commemorate this significant addition. Deputy Superintendent Maureen Raynor opened the event, highlighting community support. Second graders Jack



Kotowski and Madelyn Adel led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by performances of "America the Beautiful" and the school song. The festivities concluded with a ribbon-cutting in the new courtyard.

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD South Ocean Middle School Celebrates Centennial

South Ocean Middle School marked its 100th anniversary with a schoolwide celebration and a beautiful mural honoring the school's rich and storied history. Unity and community pride were front and center as South Ocean students, administrators, faculty and staff came together for an enjoyable evening of music, food and games sponsored by the PTA. Academic pursuits



and success, the arts, athletics and extracurriculars are all spotlighted in the mural as key components of the school's learning environment and its motto, "Where Education Is Met With Excellence."



CONNETQUOT High School Students Lead Mindfulness Workshop

Connetquot High School's psychology and Mindfulness in Music with Peer Mentorship students visited Edward J. Bosti Elementary School for a workshop on mindfulness. The collaborative event introduced the elementary students to various mindfulness techniques aimed at promoting well-being, emotional awareness and gratitude. The experience not only benefited the elementary students, but also offered Connetquot High School students the opportunity to engage with their younger peers, model positive behaviors and create lasting connections.



HALF HOLLOW HILLS Vanderbilt Elementary Student Council Collects 1,400 Pairs of Socks

The Vanderbilt Elementary School student council held its annual Socktober Drive and kicked off the event with a crazy sock day. Student council members then counted and sorted all the donations, boxed them up and prepared them for delivery to four local nonprofit organizations. Thanks to the generosity of the students, families and staff, they donated nearly 1,400 pairs of socks to those in need.



FREEPORT High School Introduces Quantum Computing Course

Freeport Public Schools brought a quantum computing course to the high school, becoming the first district on Long Island to offer the traditionally college undergraduate course to the secondary level. The course was developed with guidance from Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory for inclusion into the district's curriculum at the start of the 2024-2025 school year and offers students a competitive edge in science and technology education.



BALDWIN
High School Wins \$10,000 'Unsinkable Molly Brown' Grant

Baldwin High School was the only New York school to win the prestigious "Unsinkable Molly Brown" grant. Following an extensive and competitive application process, Baldwin was among the 16 schools nationwide to be named a recipient of the \$10,000 award to produce Dick Scanlan's revival of the Meredith Willson musical, "The Unsinkable Molly Brown." The grant was awarded by the Educational Theatre Foundation, The Music Man Foundation and Music Theatre International.



HICKSVILLE
Old Country Road Students 'Box Out Bullying'

Old Country Road Elementary students in Hicksville recently took part in a special "Box Out Bullying" assembly, during which they learned to confront bullying through a live interactive theater performance. The event made the students laugh, cheer and think.



NORTH BABYLON
Science Students All In for Shellfish Project

North Babylon High School students involved with the shellfish mariculture project through BOCES Outdoor Education took part in the final stage of the project on Oct. 15. Last spring, the students seeded approximately 50,000 hard clams and 5,000 oysters into the waters of Stony Brook Harbor. The students removed the now-grown shellfish from carts that they built, transferred them into bins and loaded them onto the bay constable boat. The boat then took them into the harbor, where the students spread the shellfish, by hand, out into the waters.



THREE VILLAGE
Turning Toothpaste Into a Life Lesson

Fifth and sixth graders at Nassakeag Elementary School learned a valuable life lesson about the power of words and kindness. Students were provided with a tube of toothpaste, a paper plate and a plastic spoon and asked to squeeze all the toothpaste onto the plate. Students were then challenged to use the spoon to get as much toothpaste as possible back into the tube. To no one's surprise, it was nearly impossible to fill the tube back up.

The lesson symbolized the permanence of unkind words. It displayed how it can be easy to say something hurtful, like squeezing the toothpaste out, but you can never take your words back or put the toothpaste back in the tube.

WEST ISLIP
Groups Show Support for Breast Cancer Awareness

Each year, the West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition presents the Pink Flags Celebration, where hundreds of flags are displayed on the lawns of Good Samaritan University Hospital to commemorate October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On Oct. 6, West Islip High School's Vocal Motion performed at the WIBCC's Pink Flags Celebration at the Women's Imaging Center. Under the direction of Melissa



Senatore, the group captivated the audience with the song "Rise Up" by Andra Day. In addition, the West Islip Marching Lion's Color Guard joined the ceremony this year. The flag team's inspiring performance added to the event's purpose and mission.

LONGWOOD
Learning Comes to Life at Coram Elementary School

Students and teachers at Coram Elementary School explored augmented and virtual reality with ZSpace and Quivervision, bringing interactive learning to the classroom. With ZSpace, students "held" 3D virtual objects, while Quivervision transformed their custom artwork into animated



AR scenes. These tools enriched learning, making concepts engaging and hands-on.

LAWRENCE
Tornado Sports Network Debuts

Lawrence High School launched the Tornado Sports Network, a dynamic new media initiative aimed at enhancing community involvement and showcasing the talent of its student-athletes. In collaboration with Athletic Director Angela Matinale and with the help of alumnus Brandon Rebel, TSN is revolutionizing the way the community engages with Lawrence High School athletics. Students involved with TSN will be able to engage in various aspects of sports media, including camera operation,



commercial creation, animation and graphic design, play-by-play announcing and interviews.



EAST ROCKAWAY

Rhame Avenue School Honors Those Lost on 9/11

Rhame Avenue School held a heartfelt remembrance event to honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, organized by sixth grade teacher Alexis Freudenberg. Students read about the significance of the day and created “remembrance chains” by writing kind messages on paper links to symbolize unity and support. The school community gathered on the field, connecting their chains and forming a large circle. Together, they observed a moment of silence, reflected on the importance of the day and the enduring power of community in times of adversity.

DEER PARK

May Moore Primary School Celebrates Power of Kindness

May Moore Primary School proudly participated in World Kindness Day on Nov. 13. Students embraced the spirit of the day by completing the School Kindness Challenge,

an initiative that encourages schools to practice kindness in various ways. Students and staff worked together on activities that promoted kindness, empathy and positive connections, earning May Moore the designation of a Certified Kindness School.



COMMACK

District Introduces Financial Literacy Requirement

Commack High School opened a state-of-the-art finance lab this school year that features 30 Bloomberg terminals as well as a stock ticker. Seniors are now required to take financial literacy coursework in order to graduate, helping to ensure they are prepared for real-world topics including investing in equities, the perils of credit card debt and saving for retirement. Superintendent Dr. Jordan Cox continues to emphasize real-world learning spaces at the high school. The finance lab is adjacent to a mock courtroom that opened during the 2023-24 school year.

CENTER MORICHES

Students Stretch Their Minds and Bodies

Clayton Huey Elementary School students calmed their bodies and minds during a yoga session in their physical education classes. Think Wellness visited the school to practice mindfulness, meditation and yoga with students. Students learned different yoga poses and breathing techniques, and were reminded



that they can practice yoga on their own for mental and physical benefits. The event allowed students across all grade levels to relax their bodies in the middle of the school day.

HARBORFIELDS

A Native Plant Garden Grows in Greenlawn

The Oldfield Middle School Community Service Club transformed an aging garden into a native plant oasis. A sixth grade teacher applied for a grant through ReWild Long Island. Between the spring and fall, students put in countless hours to remove invasive plants and weeds, place mulch and water the soil so the garden was ready to house the new native plants. Thanks to the grant, the



garden is now home to a dozen native plants. Free of pesticides and harmful chemicals, this sustainable garden will help clean the soil, water and air for a healthier Greenlawn.



WANTAGH

Middle School Club Fair Opens Eyes

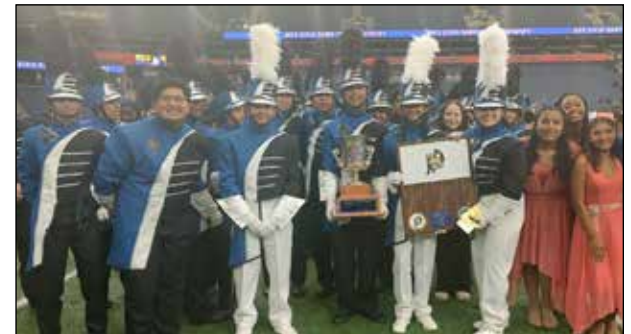
Wantagh Middle School hosted its inaugural club fair after school on Oct. 9 to showcase its extensive extracurricular program. Tables were set up representing more than two dozen clubs, and all sixth, seventh and eighth graders were invited to attend. Students could find ways to express their creativity, explore academic interests and do community service. Assistant Principal Rachel Quattrocchi, who coordinated the fair, explained the benefits of being involved in extracurricular activities from exploring interests to increasing social connections.



ELMONT

Marathon Raises Funds and Champions Health

Students at Stewart Manor School donned pink clothing and accessories for the 17th annual Prediction Marathon on Oct. 22. The event is a beloved tradition in the school community, inspiring scholars to embrace the spirit of giving while championing physical health and wellness. The school raised \$2,000 for Strength for Life, a local organization dedicated to supporting cancer patients.



COPIAGUE

Marching Band Brings Home First Place

For the first time in 18 years, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School’s marching band took home first place at the New York State Field Band Competition at Syracuse University on Oct. 27. The band competed in the Large School 3 Division and received a score of 85.20. The Copiague marching band also received awards for high visual, high music and overall effect.

NEWS INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS



WESTBURY High School Hosts No Hate Tour

Westbury High School hosted the No Hate Tour, an impactful assembly to promote positive mental health and bullying prevention through action sports. Top BMX professional athletes performed high-energy action sports while speaking to students about inclusion, kindness, mental health awareness, problem-solving and combating in-person and online bullying. Students learned about critical bullying prevention tools, techniques and information as they watched No Hate Tour athletes perform, overcome obstacles and help one another.



LONG BEACH Signing Day for Pre-K Students

Pre-K students at East Elementary School in Long Beach recently participated in a ceremonial "Signing Day" to celebrate the start of their educational journey. The students were joined by their parents and guardians as they acknowledged the occasion by marking their name or letter with a giant blue crayon.

ELWOOD High School Launches Oral History Program

Elwood-John H. Glenn High School launched Names Not Numbers, a multidisciplinary oral history program. Guided by founder and producer Tova Fish-Rosenberg, who was a special guest at John Glenn's launch event, Names and Numbers has been documenting the stories of Holocaust survivors for the last 21 years. Students conduct videotaped interviews with survivors, which are then edited into a documentary film. Over 40 John Glenn students expressed interest. For three months, final participants will partner with four different survivors, delving into



the history of the Holocaust and going beyond facts and dates to explore the deeply personal stories and firsthand accounts of those who lived through it, to create their documentary.

NASSAU BOCES Cosmetology Students Prep Broadway Stars

Students who are studying cosmetology at Nassau BOCES GC Tech served as hair and makeup artists to Broadway stars as part of the Broadway Supports LIHSA fundraiser. Theater professionals collaborated with the talented teens for a once-in-a-lifetime production. It was all



part of Nassau BOCES Long Island High School for the Arts special performance to raise funds for the school.

BETHPAGE High School Students Lead Red Ribbon Week Lesson

Bethpage High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter led a Red Ribbon Week



presentation at Kramer Lane Elementary School for fourth and fifth graders. Red Ribbon Week, observed each October, focuses on drug prevention, mental health and wellness. High school students shared tips on managing stress and used relatable stories to encourage positive habits like mindfulness and self-care. In a group activity, the elementary students crafted affirmations, guided by their high school mentors.

LEVITTOWN Veterans Share Experience at Salk

Eighth graders at Jonas E. Salk Middle School participated in a special experience as they held deep discussions with veterans in observance of Veterans Day on Nov. 8. Veterans represented service during every major conflict since World War II. Students were divided into groups to sit with veterans at tables in the library to facilitate meaningful and thoughtful



discussions. Veterans shed light on their experiences and showed photos, medals and gear that they used during their service.



ISLAND PARK Students and Staff Celebrate Unity Day

Students and staff throughout the Island Park School District celebrated Unity Day on Oct. 16. Many wore orange in hopes of sending a visible message of building commUNITY through kindness, acceptance and inclusion to prevent bullying.



MATTITUCK-CUTCHOGUE Seniors Support Community During Day of Service

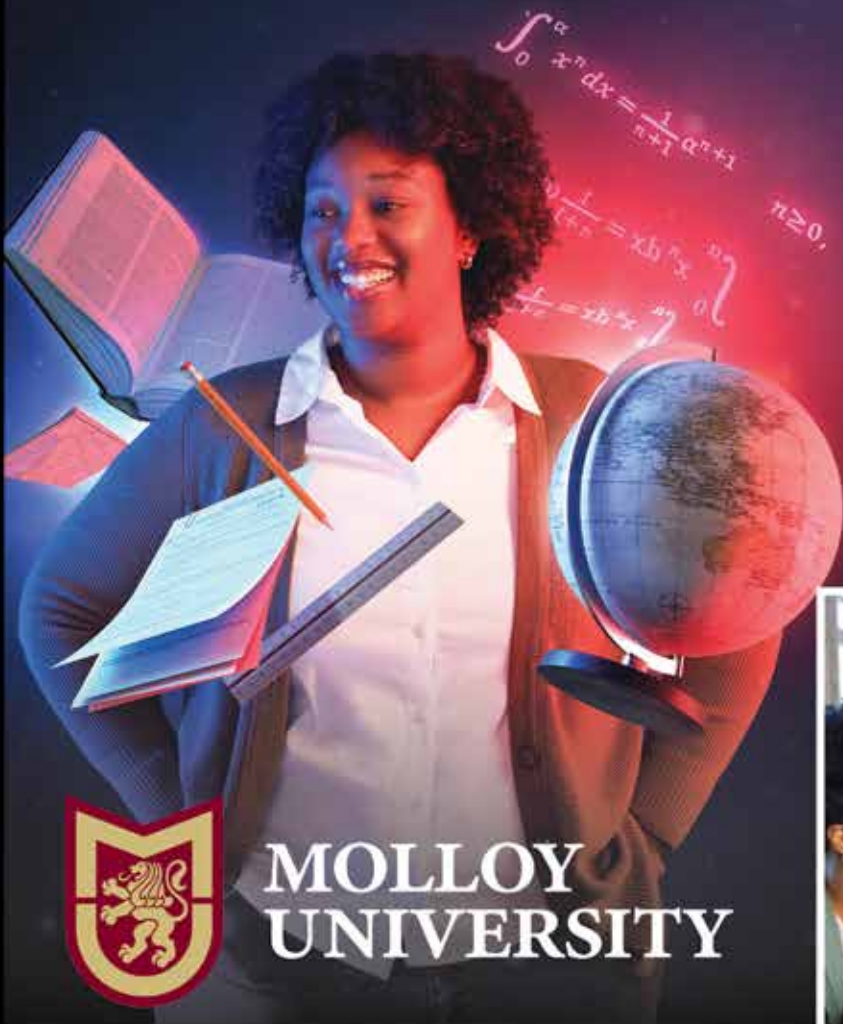
Mattituck-Cutchogue Junior-Senior High School 12th graders participated in the school's ninth annual Senior Day of Service, which is an opportunity to do supervised service projects with several East End organizations. The goal of the day was to make the community a better place to reside. Students harvested produce and fixed fences at local farms, assisted in an elementary school project, worked with animals at the town shelter and delivered food donations to the public library.



BRENTWOOD College and Careers Week

The Brentwood School District celebrated College and Careers Week Nov. 18-22, engaging students across all grade levels in meaningful exploration of career opportunities and pathways to postsecondary success. Throughout the week, the youngest learners envisioned their future professions, while middle and high school students participated in activities such as completing Naviance surveys during their English language arts classes. These efforts were designed to align students' unique interests with potential career and academic opportunities. College and Career Week aligns closely with the district's Graduation Plus initiative, which ensures every student graduates prepared and empowered to pursue their individual path to success.

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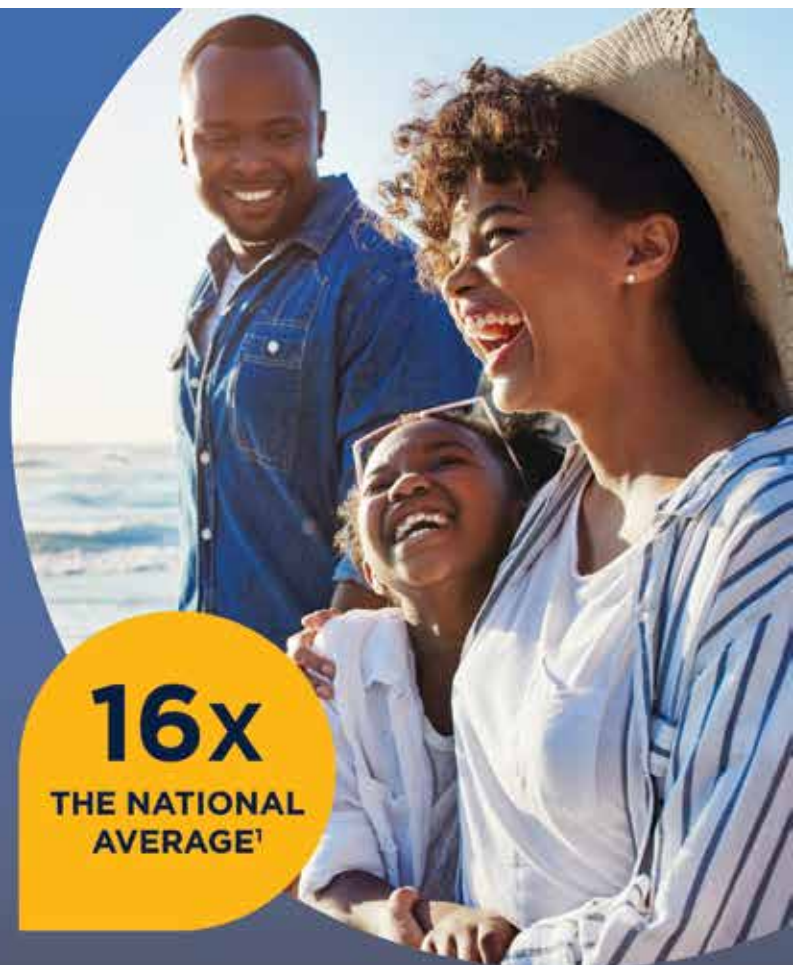
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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Qualified APY of 3.00% is for balances up to \$15,000.00 only. Balances \$15,000.01 or above will receive an APY of 0.10%. APY accurate as of September 8, 2023. We will use the daily balance method to calculate the interest on your account. We may change the interest rate paid for products and services used and the annual percentage yield at the Credit Union's discretion at any time without notice. Fees may reduce earnings. You will earn the qualified APY and ATM rebate benefits when you do at least one of the following each monthly statement cycle: Option #1: Maintain an average monthly balance of at least \$5,000.00 in the Smart Checking account OR Option #2: Have \$20,000.00 in combined end-of-month deposit balances OR Option #3: Maintain direct deposits of at least \$500.00 per month AND complete 10 debit card purchases. The average monthly balance is calculated by adding the closing balance at the end of each day and dividing it by the number of calendar days in a given statement cycle. Combined month-end deposit balances represent the total amount of balances in all applicable deposit accounts at the end of a statement cycle. Qualifying direct deposits include payroll or government benefits. Transactions that will not count towards direct deposits include external transfers, point of sale credits, and in-person check or cash deposits. Direct deposits and debit card purchases must post and clear the account during the statement cycle. Limited to one product per primary owner. Members must enroll in Online Banking and eStatements in order to remain eligible. If you do not meet the requirements for a qualification period, you will earn interest and receive the ATM fee rebates for the current statement cycle but you will not earn interest or receive ATM fee rebates for the next statement cycle. You must requalify to earn interest and receive benefits. You will begin earning interest and receiving ATM fee rebates the statement cycle after you requalify. Non-Teachers FCU and out-of-network fees charged at U.S. ATMs will be refunded up to \$15 per month. Eligible ATM fees will be credited at the end of the statement cycle to the Smart Checking account that incurred the fee(s). Members cannot be enrolled in the Educated Choice program and have a Smart Checking account. We reserve the right to modify or change this agreement at any time. Dividends earned will be reported as interest on IRS Form 1099-DIV (or Form 1042-S, if applicable).

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