

# Syosset Pride

*A Publication of the Syosset Central School District*

[www.syossetschools.org](http://www.syossetschools.org)

## Students Behaving **BENEVOLENTLY**

PRIDE AND OTHER INITIATIVES EMPHASIZE QUALITY CHARACTER AND HELPING OTHERS.



Baylis students are recognizing good behavior by submitting compliment cards in stations around the building.

Of the many wonderful student achievements celebrated, including academics, athletics and the arts, one area that is easy to overlook — largely due to the absence of a trophy or regional adjudicated showcase — is character.

Several years ago Syosset High School began emphasizing good character with students. Since then, the effort has come full circle, with every school embracing a yearlong theme that reinforces PRIDE (patience, respect, integrity, dignity and empathy). PRIDE has taken on many shapes and forms in different schools, with the constant emphasis on the qualities that comprise the

acronym.

“PRIDE has evolved into our culture; everything we do comes from it,” said Richard Faber, the high school’s peer leadership and Dignity for All Students coordinator, who trained more than 20 students to act as peer educators for younger students as part of the social studies curriculum this year. Overall, the effort has not only resulted in students acting more respectfully toward one another, but the entire staff — from the faculty to the custodians — have gone out of their way to embrace this doctrine. A PRIDE wall has also been established at the school, where every month

a different student is celebrated for setting a positive example for others. Honorees are often surprised when they are called down to see their photo posted on the wall.

Many different clubs and student groups at the high school have taken character to the next level by helping others outside of the school community. Among them is the Interact Club and its “Gift of Life: Mission Heartbeat” effort to raise money for cardiac surgeries. Additionally, the school raised more than \$5,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society through a walkathon held earlier this year, an effort spearheaded by the 10th-grade Leadership Class and the Peer Leaders.

At South Woods Middle School, the mantra is “South Woods CARES,” which stands for caring, awareness, respect, empathy and service. Service clubs in the school are developing activities focused on one of these principles. In January, the school held its inaugural Unity Week, which consisted of poetry slams, flash mobs, and written and oral pledges, all designed to bring students together, recognize their differences and be respectful toward one another beyond

the week. Through the Nassau County Holocaust and Tolerance Center, there is ongoing peer leader training, which is also a component of the social studies curriculum. The school’s Action, Awareness and Acceptance Club has been involved in a grocery project to purchase nutritious food for those on a limited budget.

Respectful online conduct is an important component to ensuring that students uphold their commitment to exercising good character. All staff — instructional and non-instructional, including principals — are trained to identify and address cases of inappropriate conduct on social networking sites, including cyberbullying. As part of this, school monitors receive special training to spot instances of bullying on the playgrounds and at recess. DASA coordinators, like Faber, serve as the gatekeepers for any bullying complaints and ensure resolution to any concerns. In fact, Faber

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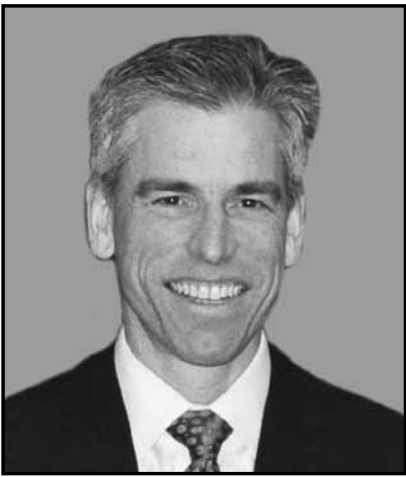
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Resident of  
Syosset Central School District

“While citizenship and mindfulness can be learned inside the walls of a classroom, we have seen how their reach can be global.”



# A Message from Your *Superintendent*



To the Syosset Community,

Spring is a time of renewal and although with every day graduation seems to rush closer, I don't want to overlook this opportunity to share some initiatives that are similarly gathering momentum.

Over the past year, the Board of Education has been putting pieces in place for several significant district-wide initiatives. As part of our state-required review of our facilities, we identified more than \$40 million in maintenance that is eventually needed at our 10 campuses. Whether aging boilers, electrical infrastructure or underground oil storage, none are glamorous, but all are necessary.

Not all of the work is urgent, and the administration has been working on developing a plan to schedule the work in a way that minimizes both disruption and new costs. Last year's high school roof project was paid from end-of-year funds and we hope this summer to finish the high school roof and renovate the A.P. Willits Elementary School roof through the

same mechanism. For future work, the Board plans to defray some of the remaining costs by using over \$9 million from our capital reserve, plus any proceeds from the Woodbury property sale.

Simultaneously, the Board has been considering issues of equity and adequacy via its athletics committee. The committee has explored the possibility of reconfiguring fields at the high school to accommodate a stadium with a turf field wide enough for soccer and an eight-lane track suitable for county meets. The Board as a whole will begin to consider the committee's work shortly, just as it considered a recommendation from administration to reconfigure the high school parking lot and South Woods Road to improve traffic circulation.

In addition, the district is following through on security with a number of infrastructure improvements that will be made through the spring and summer. Over the longer term the Board

will be considering the addition of security vestibules (The vestibules are enclosed spaces at the entrance of a building that create a sheltered place for visitors to wait for admittance to the buildings).

On the instructional side, we have reported on the exciting work being done by our technology committee – creating individualized tablet and Chromebook initiatives, and reconfiguring learning spaces as exciting interactive forums. We'll soon be taking the next step by broadening these pilot projects to many more classrooms and buildings, emphasizing those models we think work best.

While the State's plan to reexamine the Common Core – particularly in the early grades and high school math – has attracted a lot of attention, we remain equally focused on other changes expected soon. The State is creating an arts standard (as a step towards creating an arts diploma), as well as social studies Regents exams based on the

State's new frameworks, and the creation of new science standards based on the Next Generation Science Standards.

This is certainly a lot of activity, but we're encouraged that the State is taking a less hurried approach with science and social studies and hopeful that doing so will avoid some of the difficulties that plagued their Common Core implementation.

As the weather improves, I hope to see you outside at some of the district's many spring events.

Regards,  
Dr. Tom Rogers  
Superintendent of Schools

# A Message from Your *Board of Education*

Dear Syosset Community,

A staple of the Syosset CSD that helps to define the term "Syosset Pride" is the high level of academic success that our students achieve. In past editions of this newsletter, we have highlighted individual and group honors of our students. We have also recognized the on-field prowess of our student-athletes and teams, as well as the creative accomplishments of our dedicated musicians, artists and thespians.

It's often easy to overlook the programs and even the little things that are being done in our schools that teach children to be empathetic citizens and help others, whether a classmate, a friend or a complete stranger in the community, or even in another state or abroad. The Board's winter Pride newsletter message briefly touched on the many food, coat and toy drives in which Syosset students were involved during the holiday season. It's important to point out that service education is ongoing and that dedication to helping others – while perhaps more noticeable during the holiday season – never ends. The attitudes formed by students that inspire them to do good are directly related to the character education initiatives taught by the teachers and staff in the district on a day-to-day basis. The feature article in this edition of the newsletter provides a small sampling of the activities that take place in all of our school buildings. We hope you take the time to read about them.

Transitioning from warm gestures to warmer temperatures, spring is a time when the Board,

administration and our community are deeply involved in discussions on the proposed school budget for the upcoming school year. We have been conducting budget workshops prior to every public Board meeting since January and listening carefully to the comments and valuable suggestions provided by our residents. We will continue to do this through the development of the budget and beyond. We plan to adopt a proposed budget at our April 19 meeting. The community budget vote will be conducted on Tuesday, May 17 this year, with the official public budget hearing scheduled for Monday, May 9. We encourage you to attend this and all other preceding meetings to share your thoughts, opinions and suggestions. You can always email us through the Board of Education page of the district website if you are unable to come in person. As we have stated at numerous meetings, we welcome an open dialogue with our residents; we want to hear from you so that we can best serve your children and act in the best interests of all residents.

Also mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Board toured the schools this fall so that we could see for ourselves the many facility projects identified by our architects as priorities. Those of you who attend our meetings regularly are aware of the conversations that have taken place regarding these challenges. At the January meeting, our architect gave a presentation on a proposal to reconfigure the high school driveway and provide an improved system for the pickup and drop-off of students.

While we have begun the process of addressing



some of our facility challenges, there are many throughout the district to consider. The center spread of this edition provides some photographs to give you a glimpse of the major challenges at our school buildings. The Board is currently reviewing multiple options on how to address these important projects in a cost-effective and timely manner.

For any of you wishing to read a summary of Board actions and discussions, Board meeting notes are posted on the district website following every public meeting. We look forward to seeing you at our future meetings, and please remember to vote on May 17.

Warm Regards,  
The Syosset School District Board of Education

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Michael Cohen    | Rob Gershon       |
| April Neuendorf  | Josh Lafazan      |
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# Students Behaving BENEVOLENTLY

PRIDE AND OTHER INITIATIVES EMPHASIZE QUALITY CHARACTER AND HELPING OTHERS.

developed a cybersafety component to the school's wellness program and the high school is hosting an assembly for freshmen on the topic this April.

In December, the H.B. Thompson Middle School PTSA coordinated a bullying awareness program around the tragic story of Ryan Halligan, a student from Vermont who ended his life in 2003 after being bullied. Many of the sixth-graders wrote letters of support to Ryan's father, pledging their commitment to stand up for others who are bullied. The HBT Book Club recently conducted a "One Million Good Nights" drive, collecting new books and pajamas for the Nassau County Department of Social Services to distribute to youth in need. The student council organized a "Souper Bowl" food drive, collecting more than 500 cans of food for Island Harvest. Other schools participated in this event, which coincide with the NFL's Super Bowl.

Elementary schools throughout the district are also setting the tone early.

South Grove peer mediators worked with kindergarten and first-grade classes to create a video titled "If You're Angry and You Know It..." The video focused on making good choices and channeling feelings of anger into positive expression, most notably through song and positive movements and actions.

The school's Ambassador Club has been working on ways to promote K-PRIDE by defining what it looks like in different areas of the building and will be tutoring younger students as needed.

At Baylis, the school has adopted the theme "It Takes Two to Make Your Mark." Students have been filling out compliment cards to acknowledge classmates who demonstrate good character. Whether it's picking up a book that someone dropped or helping a friend zip up a coat, youngsters are marking it down and submitting cards at stations set up throughout the building. They can even nominate adults, and the most active students and classes are acknowledged. The idea is that it takes one person to do a nice thing and another to make sure it doesn't go unnoticed.

A.P. Willits School has a "compliment corner" to acknowledge random acts of kindness and, much like Baylis, acknowledges good behavior via announcements over the public address system. To encourage conflict resolution at an early age, the first-graders put on a play titled "Munchkin Mediation."

Walt Whitman students study a different character word every month, creating posters with meaningful quotes that use the word while also displaying a bulletin board where students and staff who demonstrate that month's character



South Woods students write good-natured messages on the school's graffiti board, posted during Unity Week.

word are recognized. During the school's character education kickoff ceremony, student council officers and peer mediators highlighted important traits and acted out portions of Madonna's book "Mr. Peabody's Apples," the story of a beloved elementary school teacher who is victimized by rumors. One student symbolized how rumors can spread by tearing a pillow open in front of a fan.

Berry Hill School kicked off its PRIDE initiative earlier this year with a pep rally in the gymnasium. Students have been donning "Got PRIDE" T-shirts every Friday and the message has really stayed with them, with student council members taking the lead. Recently, the student council performed a talent show for residents at the Atria Assisted Living Center in Huntington and provided each resident with a "Smile in a Bag" goody bag as part of their Snacks for Seniors community service endeavor.

Showing that performing for others can be benevolent for both its entertainment value and its ability to raise money for a good cause, Robbins Lane musicians participated in the Harry Chapin Practice-A-Thon. Students secured monetary donations from family and friends to match their practice minutes, with proceeds going to Long Island Cares, a food bank originally launched by the late pop musician. Earlier this year, the school paid it forward to an

underprivileged school in Brooklyn, selling yo-yos and donating the proceeds for the school to host the NED show assembly, a character education assembly that inspired the Robbins Lane youngsters.

Many schools are demonstrating exceptional character by helping others in the greater community. During its PARP celebration, Village School decided to extend its goodwill abroad. The school welcomed Thanhha Lai, author of "Listen, Slowly," who is also the founder of Viet Kids Inc., a nonprofit organization that purchases bicycles for poor children in Vietnam to attend school. The student council has since decided to donate the proceeds from this year's schoolwide walkathon to the organization.

"While citizenship and mindfulness can be learned inside the walls of a classroom, we have seen how their reach can be global," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers. "There are wonderful people doing philanthropic things throughout the world. Yet, for those who are unable to make that degree of impact, simply acting accordingly, treating others as you would like to be treated, and doing the right thing without the need for an audience makes the world a better place and sets the example for future generations. This, above all things, is what should make us proud."



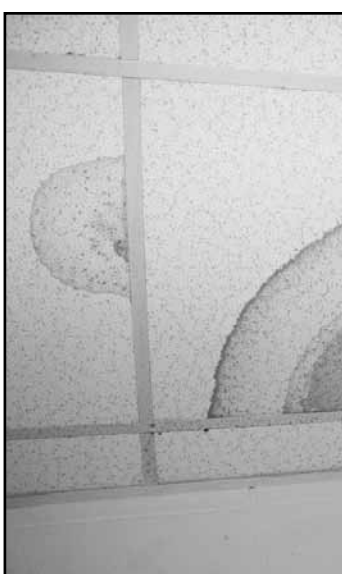
Using a fan and a pillowcase, a student council member at Walt Whitman makes a symbolic statement on how rumors can spread.



*Roofs throughout the district, including Syosset High School, are in need of major replacement.*



*Ponding, which entails the collection of water, is a major problem for district roofs.*



*Water infiltrating through the roofs of school buildings can cause damage and require time and money replacing interior materials.*

**1953**

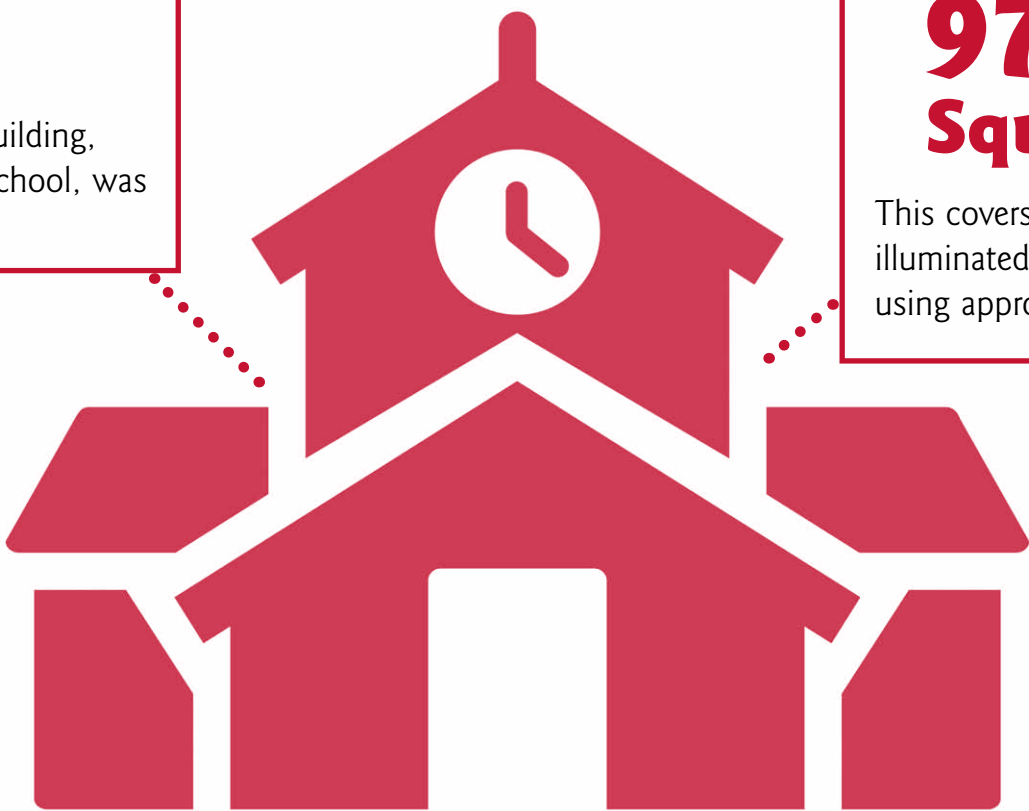
Year the district's oldest building, South Grove Elementary School, was constructed.

**978,174  
Square Feet**

This covers 11 buildings that are illuminated by 13,200 light fixtures using approximately 39,600 bulbs.

**16  
Years**

The last time the district undertook any major capital improvement project was in 2000.



**61  
Years**

Average age of our school buildings.



*Bathroom sinks have been reinforced with framing to keep them from falling.*



*Exterior sitework is needed at all school locations.*



*Masonry work is needed at multiple school locations.*





*s has also caused maintenance staff to  
terior ceiling tiles.*



*Leaks in old roofs can cause damage to equipment inside buildings, such  
as these computers.*



*The creation of a new bus loop at the high school would alleviate  
congestion and improve safety conditions on Southwoods Road.*

# A Glimpse into *Our* Facility Challenges

Last fall, the Board of Education toured a number of district sites to get a bird's-eye look at some of the current challenges our maintenance workers deal with on an ongoing basis. This included a broad range of areas identified as priorities by the district's architect. From leaky roofs to aging boilers, the Board had an opportunity to see that many of the

existing building systems have surpassed their life spans.

While the infrastructure of district buildings is addressed on an ongoing basis through the annual maintenance budget, addressing large-scale improvements to core systems in one or even a few annual budgets is a difficult and often cost-prohibitive task. Fortunately, some of the priority projects are already

being addressed through grants from the state's Smart Schools Bond Act. However, there is still work to be done.

The Board is in the midst of exploring cost-effective options to address the balance of the most crucial projects so that buildings can operate effectively, with optimum efficiency and without the health and safety of students, staff and visitors ever coming

into question.

The photos seen here are designed to provide readers with a small glimpse into the major building challenges that virtually all of the Syosset schools face. While the degree of need may vary slightly from building to building, the architect has prioritized the need to address these facilities at nearly every school.



*ites, including HBT.*



*Burners are old, inefficient and have surpassed their intended life spans.*



*Many schools have partial glass walls that are not compliant with current  
building codes.*



# STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Michael Salzman, coordinator of fine and performing arts, K-12, congratulates SHS musicians and their orchestra director, Stephanie Merten.



HBT Middle School orchestra director Cindy Hom with students who were selected to perform in Lincoln Center's Young Musicians Concert.

## *Three Ensembles to Play Lincoln Center*

Once again, chamber music ensembles from the district have been selected for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Young Musicians Concert — one from Syosset High School and two from H.B. Thompson Middle School.

Students representing Syosset High School are: Elle Park and Cameron Zandieh (violin), Jeremy Wang (piano) and Charlie Zandieh (cello). Representing HBT are two quintets. One group is comprised of Siyu Yang (piano), Caroline Ruggiero and Elizabeth Ruggiero (violin), Caroline Lee (viola) and Kevin Xu (cello); the second group consists of Spencer Rubin (oboe), Jimin Jun and Alexander Hom (violin), Christopher Oh (viola) and Michael Chu (cello).

Syosset High School's winning ensemble is one of just 11 groups chosen from the tri-state area. They will perform on April 14 at the prestigious Alice Tully Hall. The middle school students will also take the stage at Alice Tully Hall on May 26. They are two of just eight selected to perform in the middle school concert.

The district congratulates these students, as well as Syosset High School orchestra director Stephanie Merten and HBT Middle School orchestra director Cindy Hom, for their fabulous work in preparing these students for the competition.

# 60

## Student-Artists Named All-County

Sixty students from the district were selected to participate in the 12th annual Art Supervisors Association All-County Art Show at Farmingdale State College.

"I am very pleased that all of our schools are represented once again," said Michael Salzman, coordinator of fine and performing arts, K-12. "The All-County Art Exhibition is a wonderful showcase for outstanding young student-artists. I call this exhibit 'A Feast for the Eyes.' It is simply breathtaking."

## • EDUCATORS IN THE Spotlight •

### *Best Principal on LI*



Congratulations to Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante, who has been named Best School Principal on Long Island by a joint poll conducted by Bethpage Federal Credit Union and the Long Island Press. Dr. Durante began his career at Syosset High School in September 1994 as a teacher of world languages. After six years, he became the dean of discipline, and two years later was promoted to assistant principal. He is currently in his sixth year as principal. He was honored with St. John's University's Award for Outstanding Achievement as an Educational Leader in 2012 and is a past recipient of the

Syosset High School PTSA Founder's Day Award, as well as the PTA Jenkins Award as a faculty member.

Dr. Durante finished the Best School Principal poll tied for this honor with Glen Zakian, principal of Farmingdale High School.

### *Distinguished Teacher*



Congratulations to Syosset High School math teacher Susan Dowd, who was named one of only 12 recipients of the Harvard Club of Long Island's Distinguished Teacher 2016 award. Dowd began her career at the high school in 1988 teaching Sequential I mathematics and has taught every mathematics course at the school since.

In 2009, she was voted Math Teacher of the Year by the Nassau County Mathematics Teachers Association. HCLI asks current Harvard undergraduates to nominate the grade 7-12 teachers who have made the greatest difference in their lives. In being nominated, Dowd was described as "a prominent influence" and "an exceptional mentor."



# AROUND THE SCHOOLS



*A South Grove student simulates the painting of the Sistine Chapel using the bottom of a desk while lying on his back during the Multicultural Explore-A-Rama.*

## Blue Ribbon Finalist

Syosset High School is one of just 19 schools in New York State to be nominated for the designation of National Blue Ribbon School this year. The program honors schools for achieving significantly high levels of performance in English language arts and mathematics, as well as schools that make significant improvements in closing the achievement gap where a large percentage of the student population is classified as disadvantaged. Winners will be announced in September 2016.

## Trivia Experts

South Woods Middle School sent the winners of its annual sixth-grade school Trivia Challenge to the Nassau County Trivia Championships, where they finished as the runner-up. Although they fell just short of winning the title, the students walked away with their heads held high, knowing that the event benefited Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County.

## Math Movers

Seven H.B. Thompson Middle School students recently presented, explained and defended their math research papers at the Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair Nassau County preliminary round held at Hofstra University. Three have advanced to the finals on April 15, also at Hofstra. Best of luck!

## Bee-ing There

Congratulations to H.B. Thompson Middle School eighth-

grader Rika Mizoguchi who is heading to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., this May. Rika outlasted 125 contestants representing schools from Nassau and Suffolk counties, including 35 finalists, to win the Long Island Regional Spelling Bee at Hofstra University.

Additional congratulations are in order for South Grove Elementary School fifth-grader Daniel Chan and HBT Middle School seventh-grader Trisha Sinha. Both students advanced to the New York State round of the National Geographic Bee. Daniel's twin, Timothy, who advanced to the state level in last year's competition, was the school runner-up this year.

## Explore-A-Rama

South Grove Elementary School held a Multicultural Explore-A-Rama. The event consisted of different cultural share workshops presented by fifth-grade students to students in grades K-3. Explore-A-Rama featured nearly 40 different workshops covering topics such as Afghani games, Chinese terra cotta, El Salvadorian food, Indian and Spanish sports, Italian nursery rhymes and pasta art, and much more.

## Fearless Forecasters

Fourth-graders at Baylis Elementary School are working on a weather broadcast project as part of their reading unit on extreme weather. They have been developing extreme weather broadcasts on the

computer and have been gathering images, videos and maps for their designated meteorologist and eyewitnesses to refer to during a simulated broadcast recorded in the school library. Some also worked on a news logo for the anchor desk. They even took a field trip to News 12 for input.

## In Character

Village Elementary School held a Biography Celebration in honor of all the distinguished people that students have been researching. Students selected, researched and presented on a historical figure of interest, describing their significance to society and why they saw a need to create a better world. They enjoyed dressing as their subjects and discussing their importance in history with one another.

## Heroes with Heart

Walt Whitman Elementary School students participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program to benefit the American Heart Association. More than one-third of the student body jumped rope and secured donations for the cause. The AHA encourages schools to hold Jump Rope for Heart assemblies during the month of February, to tie in with Valentine's Day. Students raised a total of \$3003.

## Young Coders

As part of a schoolwide "brown bag seminar" enrichment series, 22 Berry Hill Elementary School fifth-graders took a trip to Syosset High School to meet with Advanced

Computer Coding students and get a close-up look at the games they have been programming using Java. Under the guidance of the high school students, the Berry Hill students had the opportunity to write some code of their own and test the games.

## Respectful Thespians

Twenty-eight third graders at A.P. Willits Elementary School presented an inspiring rendition of "The Lion King." According to director Atara Stern, they chose the show for its message that we are all connected in this lifetime and that every action we take and everything we do affects one another. In the play, Mufasa, ruler of all creatures in the African Savanna, tells his son Simba that the environment, and everyone in it, must be treated with respect. Sally Hawkins and Jill Mulherin co-directed with Stern.

## Welcoming That Poetry Guy

Nationally acclaimed children's poet Ted Scheu, aka "That Poetry Guy," visited with the young writers of Robbins Lane Elementary School. Upon his arrival, Scheu directed students to "fasten their giggle belts, loosen up their 'laughers' and sharpen their poetic pencils." He conducted workshops for each grade, discussed various aspects of poetry and guided students through the writing process. Each child wrote a poem based on specific ideas suggested by Scheu. He also donated books to the school library and CDs of his readings to every teacher.



*Robbins Lane welcomed acclaimed children's poet Ted Scheu for two days of informative workshops.*

# Athletic Accomplishments

## WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP

### GIRLS BOWLING

The girls earned third place in the conference and finished seventh in the county tournament. Mackenzie Wagner was the top bowler in Nassau County, achieving All-State status. Including Mackenzie, the team had two All-County and two All-League players.

### BOYS BOWLING

The boys finished fourth in league play with an All-County and All-Conference bowler.

### CHEERLEADING

The team competed in the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida, and continues to provide support, inspiration and entertainment at many local games.

### KICKLINE

The team competed in the National Dance Alliance Championships in Orlando, Florida, placing third in the Small Varsity Hip and Jazz competitions, seventh in Large Varsity Kick, and making school history by advancing to the finals in all three dances. They also won awards for Technical Routine and Unleashed Routine.

### BOYS SWIMMING

The boys had their best season in over a decade (9-0), finishing second at the county championships. Captain Tamir Zitelny set a school and county record in the 100-meter back and fly competitions, for which he also qualified for state competition. At the state meet, Tamir won the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Award and also placed third in the 100-backstroke, breaking the county record once again. He also placed seventh in the 100-meter butterfly. Additionally, the 400-meter freestyle relay team of Joe Kwak, Michael Jiang, Joe LaBianca and Tamir finished best in the county and 10th in the state. The 200-meter medley relay team placed second in the county, and the 200-meter freestyle relay team set a new school record, as all three teams qualified for states. At states, Syosset scored the most points among Nassau County teams. There were five All-County, seven All-Conference and six All-Division swimmers.

### WRESTLING

The team finished the season strong, placing ninth at the county and 10th at the state championship. Nine wrestlers qualified for the county championships. Among them

were state champion Vito Arujau, who continued his dominance in the 132-pound class, winning his third straight title with a 47-0 season record and a career mark of 179-1, with 134 consecutive wins. He is also ranked second in the nation. Alex Vargas also had an impressive season, qualifying for states and county. Both he and Vito were scholar-athletes this season.

### BOYS WINTER TRACK

The boys finished eighth out of 23 teams in the Class A County Championship. Evan Garry (600-meter) and John Antonelli (weight throw) were county champs. Evan and John advanced to state competition, along with Alden Aspiras, Stanley Feldbeyn and Luke Skorka. The team also had four conference champions.

### GIRLS WINTER TRACK

Girls winter track has two state

qualifiers: Joanna Baronowski (pole vault) and Kelly Siebert (100-meter intersectional relay). Kelly and her sister Reilly, as well as Lauren Gruber and Lauren White, were also national meet qualifiers. Three girls achieved All-County, with another achieving All-Conference.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys team finished 7-5 in a tough AA1 Conference, hosting their first playoff game since the 2010-11 season.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls team finished in second place (15-7) in one of the most competitive conferences in the county. They advanced to the county semifinals before losing to top-ranked Baldwin, the eventual champion. This was the team's most successful season since the 2008-09 school year. In addition, the team won the Nassau County Sportsmanship Award.



Head wrestling coach Mike Murtha (left) and assistant coach Ron Abatelli congratulate All-State wrestlers Vito Arujau and Alex Vargas. Vito won his third straight state title and is ranked second in the nation.



Syosset High School alumnus and Super Bowl champ Ed Newman greets current student-athletes.

## A Super Return

Four-time NFL Pro-Bowl offensive guard Ed Newman, who played in three Super Bowls for the Miami Dolphins and won a championship in 1973, returned to his alma mater, Syosset High School, to present school officials with a golden Wilson football to commemorate Super Bowl 50.

Newman starred on both the football and wrestling teams while attending the high school in the late 1960s. Members of the current varsity football and wrestling teams witnessed the football presentation and listened to his story of growing up in the Syosset-Woodbury area, attending Duke University, being drafted by the Dolphins and becoming an NFL star. He also spoke about his pursuit of a new career

once his playing days were over, first earning his law degree and later becoming an attorney and ascending to the bench as a county court judge, his current position.

"I can't tell you the debt I have to [Syosset]," said Newman, who has lived in South Florida since beginning his professional football career. "What a wonderful place for me to grow up in. The lessons I learned here have brought me to where I am in life."

Director of Physical Education and Athletics Drew Cronin presented Newman with a Syosset High School sweatshirt as a memento of his visit. The Super Bowl 50 football is displayed prominently in the school's athletic wing.

Spring 2016

# SyossetPride

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Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools