

Syosset Pride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

Intel *Semifinalists*

It was another banner year for Syosset as high school seniors Jiwei Zhong, Ridoy Majumdar and Divij Sharma were selected as semifinalists in the 2015 Intel Science Talent Search Contest.

Only 300 students were designated as semifinalists out of more than 1,800 entrants from 460 high schools in 41 states, Puerto Rico and five American international high schools located overseas.

"I am extremely proud of these students," said Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante after hearing the news. "Their hard work and determination has really paid off, and I offer my congratulations to them, their families and the Syosset faculty who work with these students on a daily basis."

Syosset's research facilitator, Veronica Ade, emphasized the amount of work and preparation the students put into their individual projects.

"These semifinalist designations are the result of months of careful mentoring, energy and research put forth by our students and staff at Syosset High School, and I couldn't be more thrilled for them," she said after the list of all semifinalists was posted on the Intel STS website. "To be chosen out of

more than 1,800 entrants is truly a monumental accomplishment and a testament to the kind of academic work we foster here."

Zhong's standout research was based on language and communication differences between older "digital immigrants" and younger "digital natives" when describing concrete images. Her research concluded that older Internet users had a broader range of lexical knowledge than younger Internet users, and that modern communication has had some marginal impact on an individual's personal vocabulary. Zhong worked under the mentorship of Dr. Arthur Samuel at Stony Brook University.

Majumdar's research, partly titled "A Platform for Brain-Guided Prosthetics," helped create a brain-computer interface that would allow motor-impaired patients to communicate with robotic arms using their brain impulses. His research, conducted under the mentorship of Jonathan Weisz at Columbia University, included noninvasive studies of human blood flow.

Sharma's project, partly titled "Differences in Beam Dynamics Between Electric and Magnetic Rings," evaluates

the Standard Model in which we understand the universe's composition.

Sharma's research evaluated the magnetic and electric fields of protons to determine if there is any asymmetry to matter, which would usher in a New Physics understanding of universal matter. Sharma worked under the mentorship of Dr. Yannis K. Semertzidis from Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Each semifinalist received a \$1,000 award from the Intel



Foundation, with an additional \$1,000 going to the district.

"I want to congratulate these students on this impressive recognition and commend our high school science and research teachers for their excellent program," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Rogers. "It's exciting to see students not only learning scientific concepts, but also applying them in groundbreaking, real-world research."

Art Resides in Syosset

Artist-in-residence programs enhance arts education

On an unseasonably warm day in mid-November, New York-based potter and sculptor Cliff Mendelson walked into the art room at Robbins Lane Elementary and laid out his tools – pigment, clay and a potter's wheel. As the children began to gather around him, he led them through a short exercise on how to properly roll a jug handle. Returning to the wheel, he painted red clay slip on the body of the jug and then produced a feather.

"Today we can do a technique called sgraffito – does anyone know what that means?" he asked. "It's related to graffiti." After listening to some answers, he turned to the vessel and began to scratch the shape of a vine with leaves into the side using the quill end of the feather.

Mendelson is an invited guest under the school's artist-in-residence program, which is made possible through grants often applied for through each school's respective PTA, and through the tireless work of the district's arts department. The artist-in-residence program gives students face-to-face, hands-on experience with artisans as they explain their craft and encourage students to pursue a life in art. Simultaneously, the nature of



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Syosset Central School District

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A Message from Your *Superintendent*



To the Syosset Community,

Every time my eyes look up from my office computer, they fall on the wall behind it, where five stunning canvases by Syosset High School senior Carina Sung were recently replaced with six beautiful new ones by senior Rachel Brodsky. When I arrived at Syosset, I kept the wall clear of personal decorations to make it available to display student art – both as a visual treat for visitors (and me) and as a daily reminder of how integral the arts are to a Syosset education. Each month, a new student-artist is featured, and as sad as I am when one comes down, I’m equally excited to see what’s next.

Our last newsletter detailed the impressive academic successes of our students. In this one, we turn our attention to the arts. New York State has been doing some soul-searching recently on the question of where the arts fit in public education. Many districts have begun to express concern that fiscal and academic pressures may begin to erode the resources of time and money dedicated to arts education. Perhaps in response, the State Board of Regents recently adopted a “pathway” to graduation (similar to a college major)

emphasizing fine arts or music, but in an era of growing competition for finite resources, this will not be the last word in clarifying priorities.

In the middle of January, Syosset hosted some 700 All-County musicians (including 44 Syosset students) for three days of rehearsals before their concert performance at the Tilles Center. The concert happened over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, and I was struck by the juxtaposition. Our newspapers remind us that the struggle for equality is imperfect and incomplete, but what I witnessed as I saw these 700 students rehearse and mingle was not a group of strangers, but of friends old and new – united by the common languages of music and motivation. So warmly were our neighbors welcomed by Syosset High School, I had trouble distinguishing who were the visitors and who were the regulars.

No doubt some of these students will make music or other artistic pursuits a career or avocation, and the All-County recognition will be a gratifying milestone along the way. But for many more, this experience will be notable more for the door to new experiences that the arts have opened – a new piece of music,

a professional conductor, a big stage and new friends.

As the clarification of priorities gains momentum at the state level, there will be a temptation to frame the issue in economic terms – what proportion of arts students will become working artists as adults? But perhaps a better analysis would be to assess the value of arts education for everyone. How else would we nurture creativity, foster self-expression, and lead students on paths of discovery? What value do we place on the appreciation of art for beauty, for social critique, and (as with the All-County event) for the bridges it builds across communities? These things endure, regardless of a student’s future vocation, and it’s hard to put a price on that.

Regards,
Dr. Tom Rogers
Superintendent of Schools

A Message from Your *Board of Education*

To the Syosset Community,

We are already about halfway through the 2014-15 school year, and what a year it’s been so far! As you’ll notice throughout this newsletter, we have a lot to celebrate and look forward to at Syosset.

In our fall newsletter, we heralded the broad and rich academic opportunities Syosset offers its students — opportunities that our students have, in turn, taken advantage of through Advanced Placement courses and independent study. Now we turn our attention to the arts and the many dynamic achievements our students have earned in music, the fine arts and dance.

Of course, we’d be remiss not to mention that this school year is one for the record books, as our varsity football team brought home Syosset’s first-ever Long Island Championship. Other teams also achieved great things on their respective fields, and we invite you to turn to page 8 of this newsletter for a complete fall sports wrap-up.

Budget season is now upon us. The Board held its introductory hearings in January

and will continue to inform the public of the budget up until the vote on May 19. To that end, we turn your attention to the newly reorganized Finance Committee, which has been doing an outstanding job ensuring that the district’s financial decisions are communicated to the public in the most transparent way possible. We look forward to the coming months as we draw insight from the feedback of both the Finance Committee and the community on how to execute our spending plan for the upcoming school year.

We also drew insight from the community about its priorities regarding the sale of property on Jericho Turnpike and are in the process of reviewing the intended uses and financial strength of the multiple bidders on the property.

The holiday season is behind us, and once again Syosset’s students proved to be tremendous global citizens as they held food drives, clothing drives and fundraisers, wrapped donated presents, and sang carols that lifted the spirits of our community. Be sure to see all of our schools in the giving spirit by viewing our special “Around the



Schools” spread on pages 4-5.

Yes, we’re halfway through, but not nearly halfway done, as we look forward to the coming months of student accomplishments and benchmarks at all 10 of our district’s buildings. With the dedication of our administration, faculty and staff, rest assured that there are many great things still to come.

Sincerely,
The Syosset Board of Education

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dr. Michael Cohen | Joshua Lafazan |
| April Neuendorf | Susan Parker |
| Chris DiFilippo | Dr. Alan Resnick |
| Tracy Frankel | Laura Schlesinger |
| Rob Gershon | |

In the KNOW...

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Common Core

Under the direction of the Board of Education, district administrators created opportunities in the past several months to explore and discuss the Common Core Learning Standards with staff and the community at large. The administrators divided the discussion into three broad topics, presenting them to the public at South Woods Middle School's library.

The topics – Curriculum Changes, Assessment Issues and Other State Reforms – were treated in separate presentations to the Board. From the history of standards as they evolved both regionally and nationally to the

various types of testing administered in the classroom, the three presentations provided a comprehensive overview of the many issues and challenges related to the CCLS.

Those presentations are available on the district website under the "Board of Education" tab. The Citizen's Discussion Committee on Common Core provides both the summaries of the public meetings at the library as well as the presentations delivered at the Board of Education meetings. Visit the district website to view these informative documents.

Citizens Finance Committee

The Board of Education is currently conducting a review of the district's financial matters and has established a Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance to help gain input from the community regarding the annual budget going forward. The committee has been holding regular meetings since October and reports back to the Board of Education at the Board's public meetings. Additionally, the new committee's minutes are published on the district website.

So far, the committee has reviewed audited financial statements provided by Dr. Patricia Rufo, assistant superintendent for business, and has worked with her and Superintendent Dr. Thomas Rogers on understanding key topics. Going forward, the committee will be reviewing sample budgets

from other districts as the Board and administration work hand in hand to institute best practices.

In addition to the input gathered by the Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance, the district invites all community residents to participate in the budget process.

Over the next few months, the Board of Education and district administration will begin a series of meetings to review the district's proposed budget for the 2015-16 academic year. All district residents are invited to attend these meetings to offer input, ask questions and become informed about the budget process. Listed below are the dates and times of the workshops and presentations leading all the way up to the annual district election and budget vote on May 19.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2015-16 school year will take place on Monday, March 30 for students attending Robbins Lane, South Grove and Village; and Tuesday, March 31 for students attending J. Irving Baylis, Berry Hill, South Grove, Walt Whitman and A.P. Willits.

MONDAY, MARCH 30

Robbins Lane

A-L 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

M - Z 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

South Grove

9:15 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

1:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Village

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Baylis

A-L 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

M-Z 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Berry Hill

A-F 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

G-R 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

S-Z 1:30- 2:30 p.m.

Walt Whitman

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

A.P. Willits

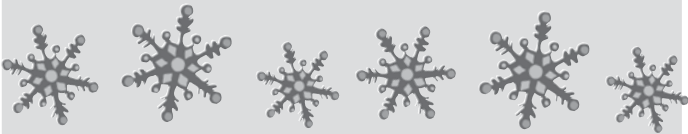
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

South Grove

9:15 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

1:15 – 3:30 p.m.



Winter Weather Notice

On occasions when schools must be closed or school openings will be delayed due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions, parents will be notified by the district's automated telephone system, a message will be posted on the homepage of the district website, and a recorded message will be available at each school.

Additionally, announcements will be made on News 12 Long Island and the following radio stations beginning as early as 6:30 a.m.:

WHLI 1100 AM
WMJC 94.3 FM
WALK 97.5 FM
WBLI 106.1 FM

WBAB 102.3 FM
WCBS 880 AM
WINS 1010 AM

A graphic of a calendar page with a grey background and a red pushpin at the top. It lists three dates: March 16, April 21, and May 11, each with a description of a meeting and its location. A vertical line separates these from the May 19 date, which is highlighted in red and describes an election and budget vote with polling locations.

March 16
Budget Information Meeting
7 p.m. at South Woods Middle School

April 21
Budget Information Meeting
7 p.m. at South Woods Middle School

May 11
Budget Hearing
7:30 p.m. at South Woods Middle School

May 19
Annual District Election
and Budget Vote
Polls Open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. at
Robbins Lane Elementary School,
H.B. Thompson Middle School and
Syosset High School

AROUND THE SCHOOLS

A Season of Giving

Syosset is known for its philanthropy, and this past holiday season was no different, as every school in the district did its part to give something back to those in need. Here's a wrap-up of what went on around the schools this winter.

Chorus Cares

Music students and members of the Robbins Lane chorus held a "Chorus Cares" coat drive in anticipation of the dropping temperatures. Throughout December, students collected lightly used coats and jackets, as well as food, and piled them up in music teacher Dr. Catherine da Silva's chorus room. The coats were donated to nearby One Warm Coat agency, while the food was sent to Island Harvest. The coats and food will go to needy families throughout Long Island.

A Healthier World

The entire Walt Whitman community came together in a schoolwide fundraiser to

Robbins Lane



collect money for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF is an advocacy group for the rights and health of children all over the world. The students discovered their own power to make the world a better place as they collected \$2,000, which will be used to purchase four clean water pumps for villages or schools, provide vaccines to more than 500 children, and purchase 400 soccer balls for children in refugee camps.

Holiday Kindness

Students at South Woods Middle School held multiple benefit programs for people and pets alike these past few months. Beginning with its Halloween Walk-A-Thon, the school raised more than \$3,600 for the Interfaith Nutrition Network, which runs homeless shelters and soup kitchens throughout Long Island. Then, the seventh- and eighth-grade student councils put together a successful Thanksgiving food drive for the INN. In addition to brightening the smiles of those less fortunate, the sixth-grade student council spent time during the holiday season upcycling used T-shirts by turning them into braided dog toys for the North Shore Animal League. Upcycling is the process of transforming a used item that served one purpose into a brand-new item with a new purpose.

A Musical Gift

Several dozen fifth-graders at A.P. Willits spread holiday cheer at the Woodbury Center for Healthcare this winter as they sang Christmas and Hanukkah songs. Led on the piano by music teacher Ann Marie Hennessey, the students belted out cheerful renditions of "Deck the Halls," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Shabbat Shalom." For the grand finale, the children sang "Frosty the Snowman" and Frosty himself paid the residents a visit.

7 in 7

This year, the Interact Club at Syosset High School held the launch of its yearly "True Blue" fundraising season for Gift of Life International by announcing its bold and innovative "7 in 7" campaign. The club intends to raise \$35,000 between now and May to pay for life-saving heart surgeries to be performed



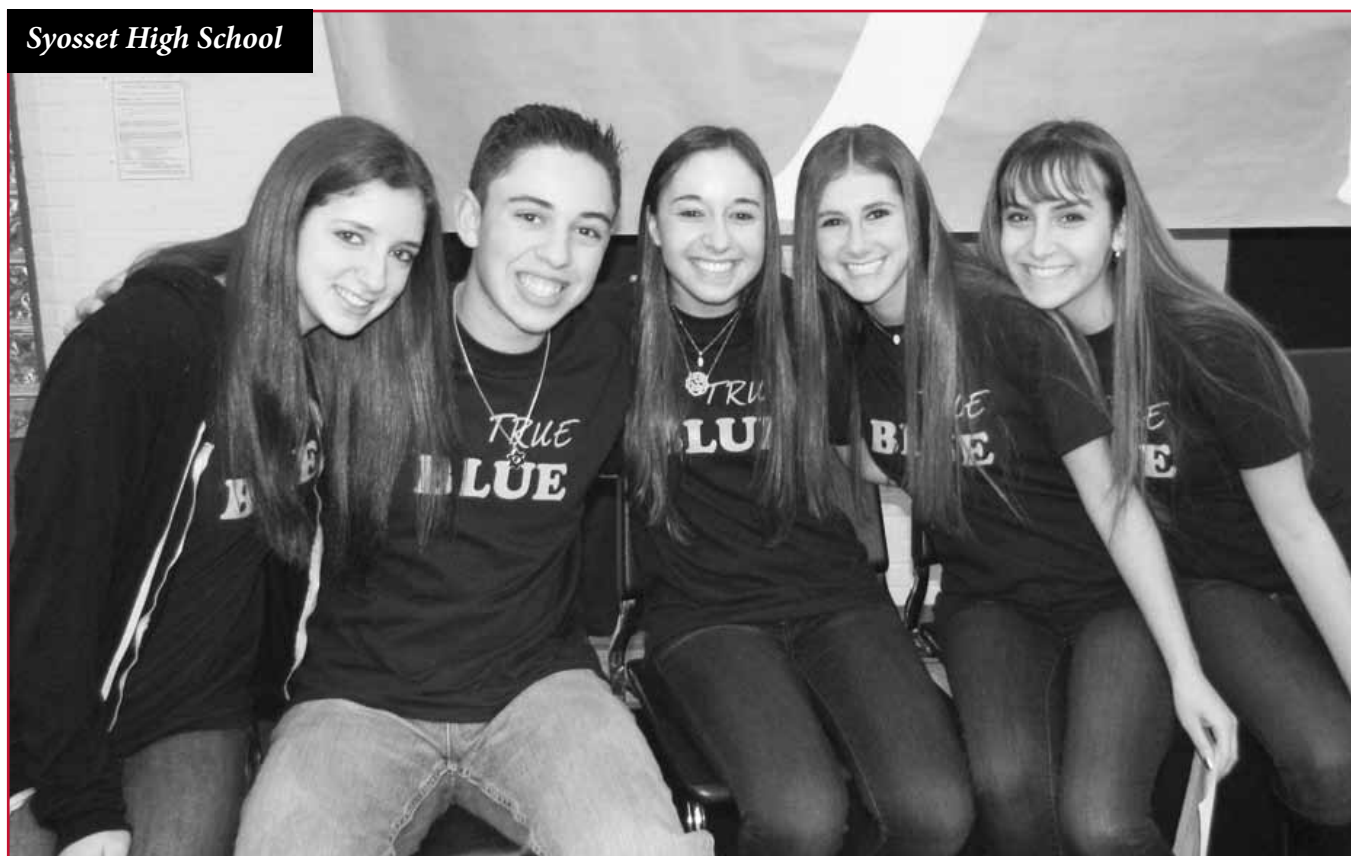
Walt Whitman

on seven children in seven continents in seven days. Gift of Life International has been performing surgery on children with congenital heart defects in countries all over the world since 1975. At Syosset's kickoff event, organizers spoke with Grace Agwaru, the first recipient of a Gift of Life International surgery, via Skype from her home in Uganda.

Sponsor a Child

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Village Elementary School shared the spirit of the season by sorting donations and wrapping gifts for the annual Sponsor a Child program, organized by the student council. Residents from Mercy First, a facility that helps disadvantaged children, stopped by to receive the gifts and treated the students by bringing in service dogs they have been training as part of their program. The dogs are used to help children cope with the problems they have. The dogs seemed just as happy to meet the students as the students were to meet them, and sat patiently listening to commands from their trainers as the students lined up to pet them. The community outreach program started nine years ago with the assistance

Syosset High School



of second-grade teacher and student council advisor Eileen Hoffman, who works with the student council each year to organize the event.

Donations for Those in Need

South Grove kept very busy in its giving spirit throughout the season. The school started with a candy donation drive that sent the sweet donations to residents in nursing homes and area hospitals. The school also held a coat drive for the winter temps, as well as a used book drive to help promote literacy and provide gifts for those in need. South Grove's food donation drive in the winter

months generated more than 1,000 food items, which were sent to local pantries.

Project Linus

The students at Berry Hill have been giving continually, as the school has held multiple benefits, including a toy drive for the Nassau County Department of Social Services and children in need throughout the county. The school is also underway with Project Linus, a campaign in which fourth- and fifth-grade students donate their recess time to make blankets for children being treated in local hospitals. Project Linus was founded in 1995 after Karen Loucks read an inspiring article in Parade magazine about a security blanket that helped a 3-year-old girl get through chemotherapy treatments. Inspired, Loucks crafted her own blankets and donated them to a local hospital, which triggered the nationally recognized nonprofit.

Treasuring Youth

Seventh-graders at H.B.

Thompson launched a fundraiser for Project T.O.Y. during the holiday stretch. Project T.O.Y., which stands for "Treasure Our Youth," is the mission of the Family Service League, a nonprofit that responds to the needs of struggling individuals and families on Long Island. During the fundraiser, students collected \$150 and donated it to the organization. The money was used to provide holiday gifts for needy children.

Pennies for Patients

The student council at J. Irving Baylis Elementary launched a schoolwide campaign to help raise funds for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society this winter. Participating in the organization's Pennies for Patients contest, students in all grades collected as many pennies, nickels, quarters and dimes as possible during a three-week period. All told, the students at Baylis raised \$1,609.97. The money was donated to the Society, which will apply it to further research on a cure for these illnesses.

Village Elementary





Syosset HS artwork on display on the Grant Campus of Suffolk County Community College.

Art Resides

in Syosset

Artist-in-residence programs enhance arts education

the program builds a foundation of knowledge that crosses the disciplines. At Robbins Lane, teacher Lori-Ann Pizzarelli has noticed how much more engaged in the vocabulary and techniques of pottery the students have become as a result of this face time.

"They loved watching the pottery take shape," Pizzarelli said. "They learned the vocabulary very quickly and were able to repeat what Cliff had just taught them. Seeing it in real life, seeing a piece of clay go from a glob into a form, seeing the actual piece of pottery with the patterns on it from different cultures firsthand... it's wonderful to see that in person as opposed to a textbook. The children and I are lucky to have such programs that bring the arts into the school."

Not only are the students introduced to new vocabulary and the Greek or Latin origins of the terms, they also learn about history, sociology, cultural traditions, the world's diverse animal and plant life, and the ways in which artisans are still hard at work bringing products to the general public.

"It's different for different grades, but I think they're seeing a connection with a real artist coming in to make things," Mendelson said of his visit to Robbins Lane. "The children don't always get to see that. Everything looks very elusive in this society where things appear automatic. Here they get to see the process that an artist goes through, and I think that's part of the program as well."

Over at Village Elementary, the medium shifted to paint, as local muralist John DiNaro returned to the school for his seventh consecutive year. DiNaro's work with Village students was organized by the arts-in-education committee of the Village PTA and Village Principal Jeffrey Kasper. During DiNaro's visit, every child at the school had the chance

to collaborate on a permanent installation, which has become a trademark of the school under teacher Courtney Kane. Over the years, the large-scale projects have been distributed throughout the building, including a multi-paneled seasonal installation in the cafeteria and the elementary school's welcome sign installed at the main entrance.

This year, DiNaro worked with the theme "Trees in the Style of Three Master Artists." For the mural, children utilized the same

experience that undoubtedly leads to the breadth and depth of coursework, electives and opportunities Syosset students can take advantage of in later years. At every turn, student work is prevalent on school grounds, such as "Cartwheel," located in the open courtyard at South Woods Middle School. Created by student-artists Katie Harris and Orlando Nunez in 1998, "Cartwheel" incorporated the collaborative efforts of technology students and student models.

The permanent metallic sculpture

Association nationally recognized the arts education programming in Syosset as one of the finest in the country by granting the School Boards Award to the district. Additionally, Syosset High School was named a Grammy Signature School by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences five times, and the NAMM Foundation has included Syosset on its list of Best Communities for Music Education 13 times.

On the state level, Syosset is often recognized as having one of the finest arts programs in New York. The district is a recipient of the New York State Award from the New York State Alliance for Arts Education and the New York State School Music Association Presidential Citation.

Syosset typically has among the highest number of All-State musicians in the state, and its student-musicians are often awarded outstanding opportunities to perform in honors ensembles around the country. Locally, the Nassau Music Educators Association has recognized many of Syosset's administrative leaders at various times as Administrators of the Year. Of the five music educators who have been inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame, two have had outstanding careers at Syosset.

"Similar to our academics, the depth of our arts education programming and the dedication of our staff have created a top-notch cultural institution that really gives students with artistic aims room to explore all means of expression while simultaneously preparing them for college coursework," said Dr. Thomas Rogers, Syosset's superintendent.

The artist-in-residence programs throughout the district are at the foundation of that success, as students receive early, ongoing and rich instruction in the arts.



"Similar to our academics, the depth of our arts education programming and the dedication of our staff have created a top-notch cultural institution..."

painting techniques as Wassily Kandinsky, Piet Mondrian and Vincent Van Gogh as they painted trees in the manner they believed these three masters would have painted them. The assignment not only fostered student creativity, but also laid a pathway for students to learn world history and culture.

The artist-in-residence program gives children an exceptional opportunity to work alongside accomplished artists using professional-grade materials, an

captures the whimsy of child's play tumbling across the lawn.

At the high school, students are encouraged to enroll in their choice from over 25 art electives, including drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, multimedia art, graphic art, art history, fashion design and every Advanced Placement art course the College Board offers. Outside of school grounds, the world has taken notice.

In 2002, the Kennedy Center and the National School Boards

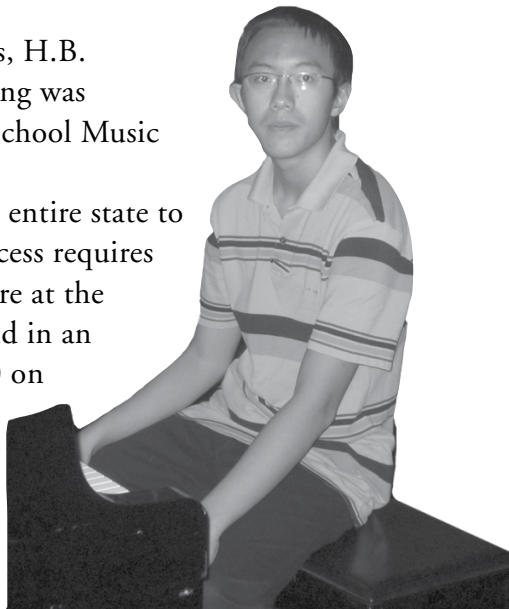
Accomplished Artists

AN ACHIEVEMENT BEYOND HIS YEARS

After a highly exclusive selection process, H.B. Thompson Middle School student Siyu Yang was chosen to perform at the New York State School Music Association Piano Showcase in December.

Yang was one of only 10 students in the entire state to be invited by NYSSMA. The selection process requires students to receive the highest possible score at the NYSSMA Solo Evaluation Festival and send in an audition tape. Yang received a score of 100 on a Level VI solo as a sixth-grader this past spring and submitted his recording.

Yang performed at the showcase during NYSSMA's Winter Conference, held Dec. 4-7.



SCHOLAR-ARTIST GAINS RECOGNITION

The Long Island Arts Alliance recently named Syosset High School senior Alexis Shore a 2014-15 Scholar-Artist for her achievements in both academics and dance.

Shore, an accomplished dancer at Syosset, was one of only 20 other Long Island students to receive the designation. As a Scholar-Artist, she is invited to an end-of-year reception at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post, where she will receive an award and a check for \$250. A brief write-up about Shore will also appear in Newsday in the coming months.

Each year, the LIAA recognizes students who excel academically and in the areas of either music, visual arts, dance, theater or media arts.



THREE SELECTED TO ALL-EASTERN ENSEMBLES

Three Syosset High School musicians were recently designated All-Eastern Honors musicians by the National Association for Music Education.

Jordyn Goldstein, Mary Kim and Adam Obedian were recognized as among the best All-State musicians in NAFME's Eastern Division. Goldstein and Obedian were added to the choral ensemble; Kim to the orchestra ensemble. The designation means that all three will travel to Providence, Rhode Island to perform with the other All-Eastern designees in April.

The NAFME Eastern Division encompasses 12 East Coast states as well as representatives from Europe.

AN ACCOMPLISHED VIOLINIST

Syosset High School student and violinist Angela Wee was recently selected by the YoungArts Foundation as a finalist winner in its instrumental music category. The designation means Wee will receive an award medallion, a certificate and a letter of recommendation that she can use when applying for colleges. According to the YoungArts Foundation, the finalist designation has resulted in more than \$150 million in scholarships, and touts actor Adrian Grenier, Nicki Minaj and other noted artists as part of the foundation's family of recipients.

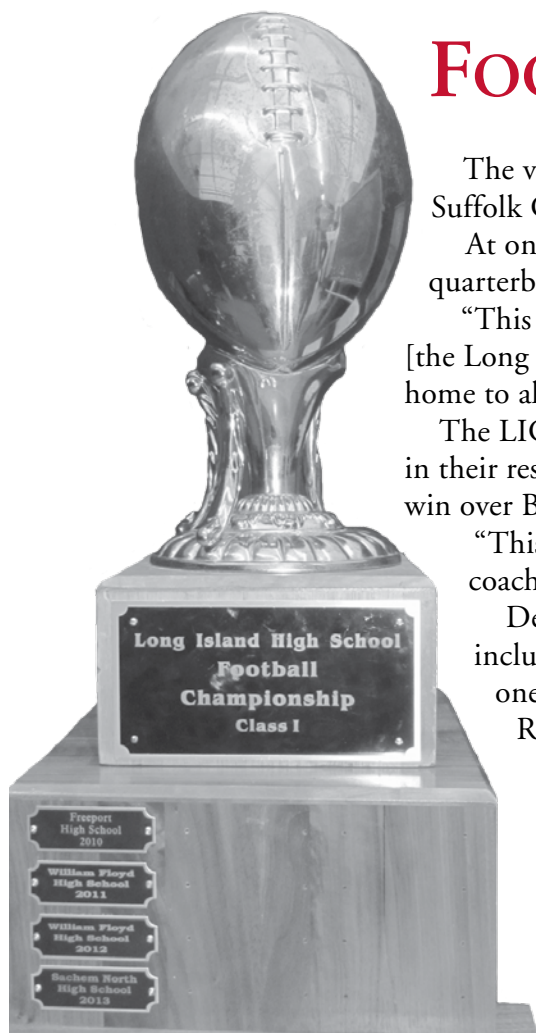
In addition, Wee attended National YoungArts Week in Miami from Jan. 4-11, where she had the opportunity to take part in master classes, participate in live auditions and interviews,

and perform, among other benefits. The designation also opens the opportunity for Wee to participate in a YoungArts regional program in New York City in April.

"Angela is the finest high school-aged musician I have ever known," said Michael Salzman, Syosset's coordinator of fine and performing arts. "She continues to win national and international competitions, and I am mesmerized every time I have the opportunity to hear her play the violin."

Wee studies violin under the tutelage of music department teachers Linda Carella, Jeanne Chung and Stephanie Merten.





FOOTBALL TEAM MAKES SCHOOL HISTORY

The varsity football team secured the first Long Island Championship in Syosset history after defeating Suffolk County Champion Lindenhurst 35-13.

At one point, Syosset led 35-0 off the strength of some defensive touchdowns and the solid play of quarterback William Hogan.

"This is amazing," Hogan said. "It has been 40 years since the district has won a county championship, so [the Long Island Championship] is a big deal for the school and the alumni. It feels great to be able to bring it home to all of them."

The LIC originated in 1992, pitting the Suffolk County champions against the Nassau County champions in their respective divisions. Earlier in the year, Syosset secured its first county title in 40 years with a 26-20 win over Baldwin.

"This was the culmination of a lot of hard work and dedication," said Syosset coach Paul Rorke. "The coaches and the kids put in a lot of time and effort, and this is incredibly gratifying."

Defensively, the Braves forced five turnovers, including two interception returns for touchdowns: one by Michael Panvini and the other by David Reiter. Offensively, Hogan scrambled for a 1-yard touchdown run and completed a 39-yard touchdown pass to Michael Elardo. Elardo, who holds the Long Island record for most receiving yards in a single season, finished the day with four catches for 78 yards. Running back Ian Berg also recorded a touchdown score with a 2-yard scramble.



Syosset Athletes Make Their Presence Known

In addition to the historic run by the varsity football team this past fall, other fall sports teams made significant accomplishments, including some county championships.

Boys Cross-Country

The boys earned a Nassau County championship this fall after securing the Division 1A title. The season included winning first place in the Xavier International meet and taking sixth place in the New York State meet.

Girls Cross-Country

The girls matched that

accomplishment, as they earned their fifth Nassau County championship in seven years and boasted an undefeated record in league meets. For the first time in Syosset history, the team won the Section 8 Championship and qualified for the New York State Federation meet, where they placed at the top of all Long Island schools at the meet.



Boys varsity soccer team

Boys Soccer

The varsity soccer team had a successful run in the playoffs, finishing as runners-up in the Nassau County Class AA championship. The boys posted a season record of 11-6-1 on the year.

Girls Soccer

The girls varsity team capped off their successful season as Nassau County Conference AA2 champions. The girls finished in first with a 10-1 conference record and advanced to the quarterfinals in their playoff run.



Girls varsity soccer team

Girls Swimming

The varsity swim team earned a Nassau County championship after posting a perfect 8-0 season. Individually, Liz Lu set two school swimming records in the 50 free

and 100 free events. Ninth-grader Adena Posen won the Freshman Diver of the Year Award from the Officials Association.

Volleyball

Both the girls and boys varsity squads earned a spot in the playoffs this year after successful records in the regular season.

WINTER 2015

SyossetPride

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