

# SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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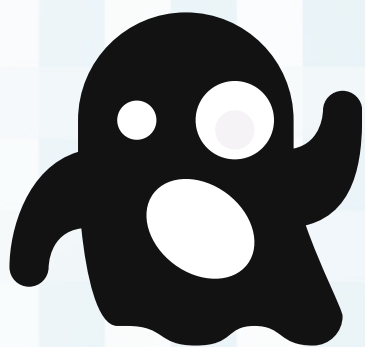
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**OCT 2023**



# SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown School Community,

I hope that this message finds you well. As you know, this bulletin was created to provide a monthly opportunity to inform the school community of district initiatives, important curriculum matters, achievements and news. It serves as a great opportunity to share positive messages about the great things that are happening within the district. Our website and social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) are also great resources to keep you informed and I encourage you to access them regularly.

While we are immensely proud of the work we do, and the opportunities we provide, we are well aware of the challenges many of our students face. When speaking with our staff, my message has been very consistent regarding the power of “Belief.” We must all believe in the power we have to positively impact the lives of our students. I have asked each of our educators to challenge themselves to be the reason their students are positively engaged at school, and when they are not...to intervene, create a bond, forge a relationship. I have stressed to our teachers that they don’t just teach content, they also need to cultivate an understanding of the importance of learning! For many of our students, this understanding is readily apparent, for others it is not, and it is our job to identify those students and assist them. That is where our greatest work occurs.

This work seeks to further foster a culture of care in our schools that develops a sense of connectedness and the nurturing relationships that are necessary between the teachers and the students so that there can be an increase in the students’ positive experiences of schooling. Please know that our district is committed to this work and our outstanding team of teachers, school psychologists, social workers, counselors and administrators stand ready to assist you and your children as they navigate their educational journey in the Smithtown Central District.

Sincerely,  
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.



# CURRICULUM CORNER

## EXPLORING THE NISSEQUOGUE RIVER

THINK Discovery Science Research students from High School East, coordinated by Ms. Maria Zeitlin, recently returned to conduct citizen science along the Nissequogue River. Part of a multi-school collaboration with Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Central Pine Barren Commission, the Suffolk County Water Authority and the NYS DEC, this annual STEM activity takes a longitudinal look at the health of our local estuary.

According to SCSD science director, Dr. Stephanie O'Brien, "Student learning in real life scenarios, about the geographic area they live in, doesn't get more authentic than this. Conversations between students, compiled with laughs and smiling faces, help create a culture that has benefits which extend well beyond the school walls."

While canoeing the Nissequogue River, students in Mrs. Hoffman's HSW AP Environmental Science class sampled oceanographic and estuarine parameters of the river water. Students sampled the water for parameters such as pH, temperature and salinity. Students also made observations about local flora and fauna.



# CURRICULUM CORNER

## FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Students in Ms. Carone and Ms. Williams High School West Oceans classes headed to Sunken Meadow State Park to model how we explore, monitor, and protect our waters. In the morning, they worked with staff at Western Suffolk BOCES to design and engineer underwater robots called Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV's) that had to perform various tasks when deployed in the water at the park.

In the afternoon, students participated in a beach clean and completed a training they've been working towards with the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMSEAS). The goal of the training was to help students learn how to monitor our beaches for marine debris.



## STEM PROBLEM SOLVERS OF TOMORROW!

Third graders at St. James Elementary School are becoming future STEM problem solvers through Project Lead The Way.

Recently students in Mrs. Piazza's class were introduced to VEX Robotics kits by St. James Elementary STEM specialist, Mr. Brian Cusati.

The students are being taught how to locate and gather parts needed from the Vex kit to build simple machines. Students are learning about forces of motion and how simple machines can make relocating a fictitious zoo tiger easier in this design challenge.

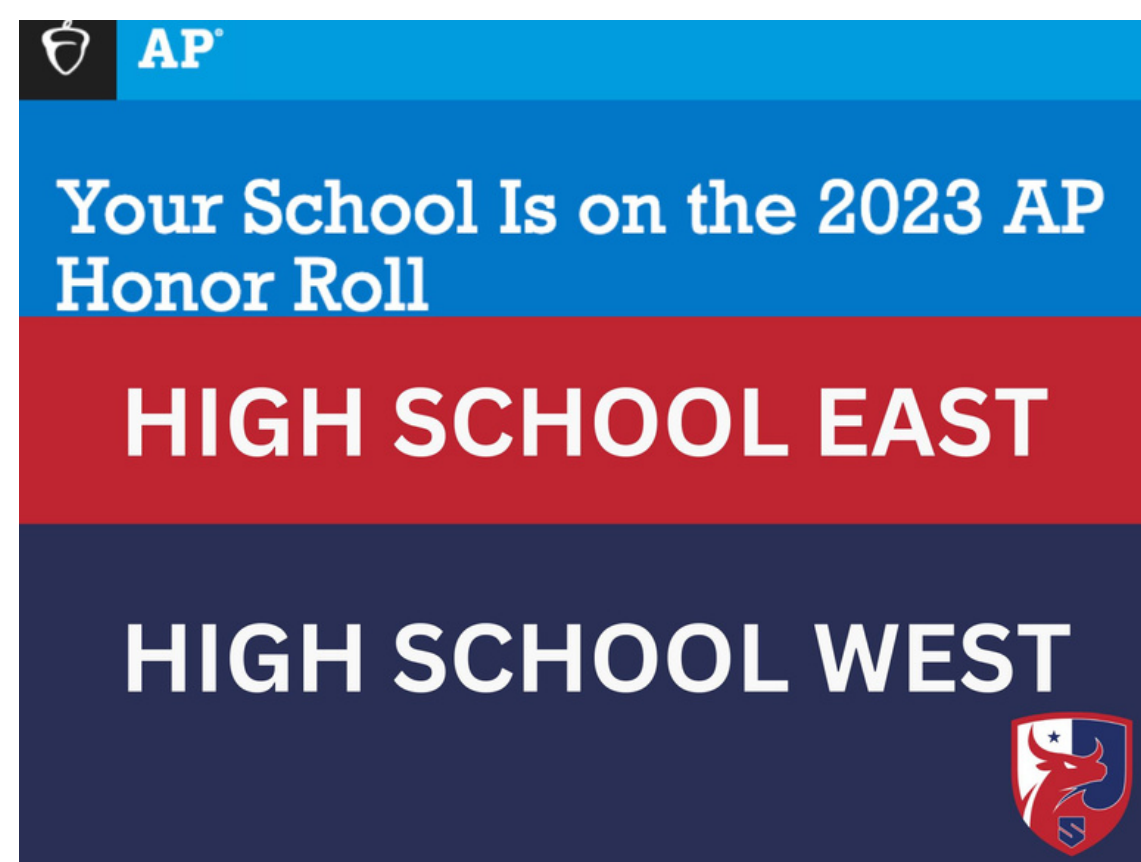


# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## AP HONOR ROLL!

Congratulations to High School East and High School West on earning a place on the College Board's AP School Honor Roll for the 2022-23 school year!

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.



## RIDE THE WAVE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Congratulations to Mt. Pleasant Elementary fifth grade student Mackenzie Albanese for winning the fifth grade Moving Up t-shirt contest! Mackenzie's "Ride The Wave To Middle School" design was voted the winner by her class.

The announcement was made by Principal Joseph Ierano at a bagel breakfast hosted by the PTA. All seven finalists worked with Mt. Pleasant Art teacher, Kathleen Lindbom on creating their drawings for the fifth grade Moving Up t-shirts. Mrs. Lindbom then refines the drawing, which will appear on the front of the shirt with students' signatures on the back!

Congratulations to Mackenzie and the following finalists: Kylie Cabrera, Dylan Cossi, Sean Farrell, Ellie Kuletsky, Vivian Siglain and Elijah Stewart.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## MAKING CHANGE!

Accompsett Elementary School students raised \$1,482 in coins to the nonprofit Solving Kids' Cancer on Sept. 22, "Go Gold" day in the SCSD.

Throughout the district, students and faculty members wore gold shoelaces as part of the organization's Lace Up for Kids campaign.

This is the third year Accompsett Elementary School Principal Tim Hellmuth has invited students to participate in "changing kids' lives" by generously donating coins.

Amazing!



## AVM AWARENESS MONTH

October is AVM Awareness Month and the SCSD community joined together to honor one of our own.

Paige Elizabeth Keely passed away in 2018 at the age of 6 from an undiagnosed brain arteriovenous malformation. Paige was a first grader at St. James Elementary School.

Paige's mom, Gina, has been advocating for AVM awareness through her Paige Elizabeth Keely Foundation and by educating students and staff on warning signs of AVM.

At Dogwood Elementary, students and staff "went pink" and raised a total of \$414.00 through the sale of AVM Awareness bracelets.

If you're interested in donating, click [HERE](#) for more information.

To watch Mrs. Keely's story, click [HERE](#).



# COMMUNITY NEWS



# Happy Halloween

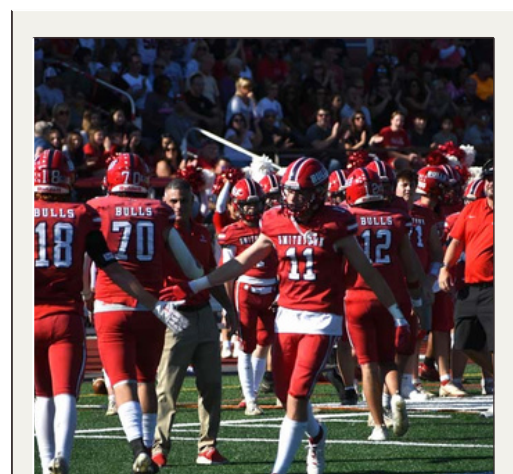
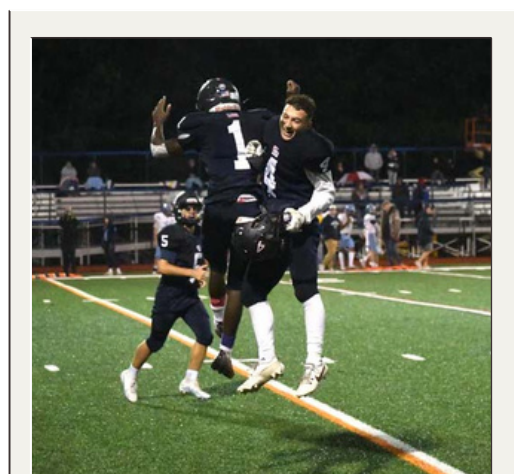
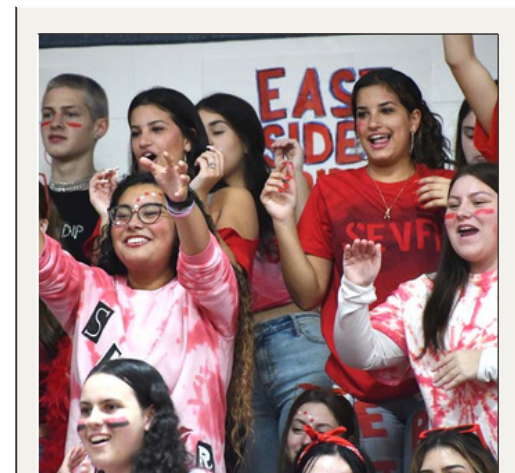
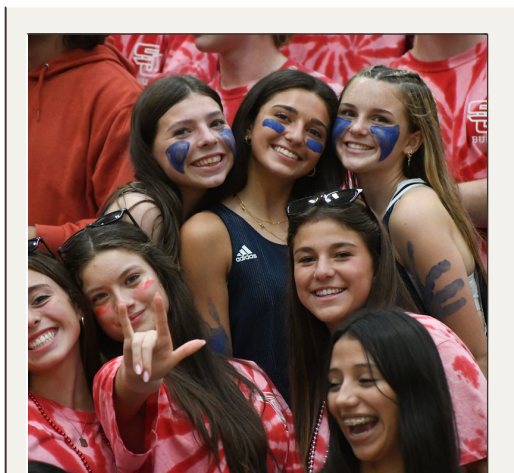


# SPORTS ZONE

## HOMECOMING

High School East and High School West both celebrated Homecoming weekends this month. The school spirit was in full effect at both pep rallies and the Homecoming football games!

Congratulations to newly crowned Homecoming King and Queen Daniel Davidsen & Erika Gehrling from HSW and Benjamin Kennedy and Ava Nucci from HSE!





# SPORTS ZONE

## SIMPLY THE BEST!



Congratulations to senior wide receiver Jack Melore of High School West for setting the all-time Long Island career records for receiving yards and career receptions!

A true testament to all of Jack's hard work over the last four years.



## SMITHTOWN ACES!



Congratulations to HSE's Anya Konopka and HSW's Isabella Spilotros! Anya won the Suffolk County Individual Championship, the first SCSD player to win that since...her head coach, Nicole Daniggelis in 2011! Anya and Isabella both made it to the State Tournament this season!

Well done!



## GREAT HOLLOW VS. CANCER

More than \$2,500 was raised in the fight against cancer by Great Hollow Middle School in its Great Hollow vs. Cancer event, held on Oct. 3. The event was organized by Great Hollow Middle School field hockey coach Colleen McKillop.

The football, boys and girls soccer teams along with the field hockey team all took part.

The Great Hollow kickline and cheerleading teams also performed. Donations came from students, teachers, staff and parents to raise funds for Solving Kids' Cancer.



For more great pictures and stories head to our website & social media pages! @smithtowncsd

