

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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Message*



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APRIL 2024



SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well. With our recent Spring Recess behind us, we now hope that the April showers will yield May flowers! As we enter May, we are reminded that another successful school year is coming to a close, but there will be a flurry of exciting activities in the coming weeks.

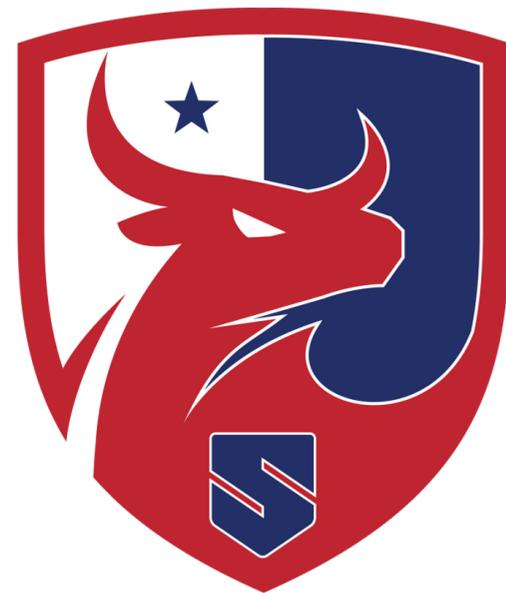
We are very proud to provide the level of education you expect and deserve. In order to do so, we must seek to maintain the programs, services and opportunities we provide our students while supporting the staff who serve them. To highlight the work of our schools, we have placed a sign in front of each school to highlight “Great Things Happen Here” and summarized a few points of pride for each school. In fact, the entire district can be proud of the important work that has taken place in recent years.

Here is a partial list of what we have accomplished:

- Development and implementation of our Smithtown 2027 Strategic Plan
- Maintained low elementary class sizes
- Increased academic and social-emotional support for students
- Developed a data-informed approach to improve outcomes for all students
- Expansion of enrichment and Project Lead the Way opportunities
- Developed additional graduation pathways aligned with student interests
- Sustained partnerships with our PTAs, Town of Smithtown and the SCPD
- Improved communication with our school community via a new website, monthly bulletin, social media and the MOOV app
- Successful Bond proposal to invest in our buildings and grounds
- Successfully negotiated settlements with each of our unions

While we are very proud of these accomplishments, we realize there is much more we can do to realize the potential of our school district. We look forward to this work and the benefits it will provide the Smithtown school community in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Dr. Secaur



CURRICULUM CORNER

HONOR SPEAKERS SELECTED!

High School East's Dylan Shen and High School West's Brayden Stahl were each voted by their peers to be their High School's honor speakers at this year's graduation!

Both Dylan and Brayden were selected at the annual Gold Cord breakfast, honoring seniors who achieved a cumulative 4.0 GPA.

Congratulations to all honorees and we can't wait to hear Dylan and Brayden's speeches!



WE REST OUR CASE!

Congratulations to the Great Hollow Mock Trial team, advised by Mr. Restifo, who competed in the Western Suffolk BOCES 40th Annual Mock Trial tournament at Suffolk Community College, Selden Campus.

The 6th grade prosecution team members were, Luca Arnold, Camden Collins, Maeve Haggerty, Anthony LaTorre, Emilia Lewicki and Joseph Menhofer. They won on performance points in a complex criminal case against North Shore Glenwood Landing School, of North Shore Central School District.

The defense team of Mirielle Fox, Aaron Matvenko, Abby Matvenko, Stuti Prabhu, Kailey Tester and Emma Trabosh won a complicated criminal case on the merits and law against North Country Road Middle School of Miller Place UFSD.



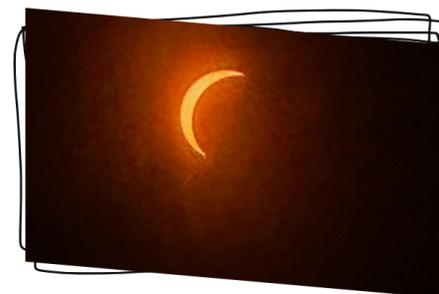
CURRICULUM CORNER

SOLAR ECLIPSE!!!

Students throughout the Smithtown Central School District participated in various activities celebrating the area's historic solar eclipse on April 8.

Donning protective glasses — many of which were purchased by school PTA groups—students created “pin hole viewers,” played eclipse bingo and stepped outside to view a celestial event.

The next total solar eclipse in the United States is expected to occur in 2044.



TENNIS BALLS, ANYONE?

Students from Smithtown High School West's Leadership class have successfully implemented a tennis ball recycling initiative.

As part of their Civic Capstone Project in pursuit of the Seal of Civic Readiness, the students researched the challenges of recycling tennis balls and will now be collecting used tennis balls to re-use throughout the district.

Pictured left to right are: Melvin Cheng, Ryan Shin, Eric Kim, Jacob Kim



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

WAY TO GO, SOPHIA!

High School West 11th grader, Sophia Enright, has raised \$27,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as part of the LLS Student Visionaries of the Year program!

Sophia was the leader of a 20+ person team of students from HS East and West, the "Bulls Against Blood Cancer."

One of the several fundraising activities that she organized was "Loose Change for Leukemia" at Mount Pleasant Elementary, which alone raised about \$7,000 in three weeks.

Sophia's incredible efforts will also serve as her Service Learning Project in her pursuit of the NY State Seal of Civic Readiness.



MARVELOUS AT MAGLEV

If you think traffic on Long Island is rough, some Accomsett and Great Hollow Middle School students may have a solution. The Competition Clubs recently took home some awards in the 2024 MAGLEV competition at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The students competed against nine Long Island schools and had to design and create a magnetic levitation vehicle.

Congratulations to the following winners:

AMS:

Srihas Mandava-1st place for 3D printing category

Landon Tully-2nd place for 3D printing category

Alex Manassis-3rd place for Wind category

GHMS:

Brody Morgan-2nd place for Wind category

Jeremy Schomber-2nd place for Futuristic design

Alexander Radek-3rd place (not shown in photo)for Futuristic design



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

SPELLING STAR

Accompsett Middle School seventh grader, Olivia Lipiec, has qualified to compete in the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

Olivia placed 3rd in the ScholarSkills/Scripps Long Island Spelling Bee, held at Half Hollow Hills East High School.

AMS student, Nick Cardi, also did very well, placing 6th out of 50 spellers!

Thank you to Accompsett Middle School Reading Teacher Gena Agostino for accompanying and supporting our students!

The National Spelling Bee will be held the last week of May.

TEAM 810 MAKES ITS MARK

The SCSD Team 810 robotics team finished #2 overall out of 49 teams recently at the FIRST Long Island Regional robotics competition!

Held at Hofstra University, the team defeated the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th “alliances” to advance all the way to the final round!

Team 810 President, High School East junior, Abigail Brennan, earned the Deans List Finalist award for an unprecedented second consecutive year and competed in the World Championships in Houston.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FRUITS AND VEGGIES CHALLENGE!

Congratulations to Dogwood Elementary and Ms. Panzarino's class on earning the top ranking in High School East FCCLA's annual Fruits and Veggies Challenge!

Dogwood was the top winning school and Ms. Panzarino's class was the top class overall.

FCCLA challenges the students to eat more servings of Fruits and Veggies during National Nutrition Month. The members make videos encouraging and giving tips to the students and a weekly tracker shows each class their progress.

This year's winners were - Takan Elementary's Ms. Spata's class, Mills Pond's Ms. Krafts class, St. James' Ms. Adam's class, and Dogwood's Ms. Panzarino's class.



HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The Need: To provide canned food items for those in the community who are going hungry.

The Project: Seven Accomsett Middle School students went to their classmates and encouraged their involvement to collect cans for those less fortunate.

The Result: More than 2,000 cans of food donated and \$2,500 raised.

The students partnered with the Smithtown Township Food Pantry to donate all the cans they had collected.

Lead4Change then donated \$2,500 to the pantry to help meet their needs as a community!



COMMUNITY NEWS

VETERANS BREAKFAST

On behalf of High School West's Rho Kappa, local veterans were invited to a very special breakfast on April 12, honoring the late Thomas Mooney, a veteran of the U.S. Army, local VFW Post, and grandfather to four HSW students.

Senator Mario Mattera, Superintendent Mark Secaur, and HSW Principal John Coady all thanked the veterans for their service and the students for putting on such a wonderful event.

Senior Olivia Wolber sang a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem, and then to the delight of the crowd announced that Rho Kappa had raised \$2,500 to donate to the local VFW Post.



WATCH

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Students throughout the SCSD came together during Autism Acceptance Month to help foster an understanding of the positive traits of autism and promote an inclusive learning environment for all.

At Smithtown Elementary, Principal Kakalos hosted a ribbon cutting for the school's new communication board at its school playground. An autism communication board is a specialized tool created to aid individuals who struggle with verbal communication. It uses pictures and symbols to convey messages and thoughts.

News 12 Long Island covered the event as well!

Students and staff at Dogwood Elementary wore red, gold, or rainbow colors to show love, support and acceptance of those with autism. Students learned how to celebrate everyone's uniqueness and to be sensitive to the needs of others.



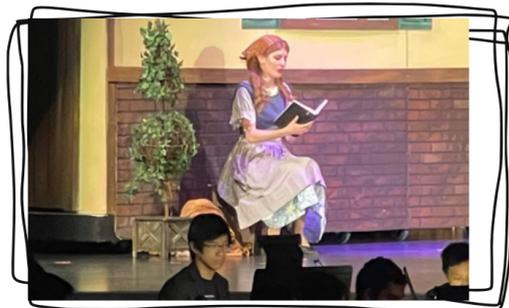
COMMUNITY NEWS

STARRING ON STAGE!

**BEAUTY AND THE
BEAST:
MILLS POND
ELEMENTARY**



**CINDERELLA:
H.S. EAST**



**ONCE UPON A
MATTRESS:
NESAQUAKE**



**ARISTOCATS:
SMITHTOWN
ELEMENTARY:**



COMMUNITY NEWS



Students throughout the SCSD stepped up for Earth Week and Month of the Military Child!



GHMS 6TH AND 8TH GRADERS READ BOOKS WRITTEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MILITARY CHILDREN

HSE & HSW LEADERSHIP TAUGHT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ABOUT CARING FOR THE EARTH & RECYCLING



DEL STUDENTS WORE PURPLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SLOGAN, 'PURPLE UP FOR MILITARY KIDS!'

SEL WELCOMED NAVY CHIEF DOMINICK MEZZAPESA

MURALS, RECYCLING, PLANTING AND MORE! GREAT JOB GREEN TEAM!



SPORTS ZONE

LETTERS OF INTENT!

“Today is the culmination of years of your hard work and dedication.”

Those were the words of SCSD Athletic Director, Jason Lambert, as he proudly addressed student athletes at High School West and High School East during their National Letter of Intent ceremonies.

Click [HERE](#) to read the list of student athletes.



CONNOR SAYS “NO NO!”

Congratulations to Smithtown West’s Connor Catania on throwing a no-hitter this month in the Bulls win over Half Hollow Hills East.

Great job Connor, as well as catcher Chris Theofield!



HER-STORY!



High School athletes from East and West have made history by joining together to become the first ever SCSD flag football team! The girls won their inaugural game!

