

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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Message*



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APRIL 2026



SUPERINTENDENT Message

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well. Now that Spring Recess is in the rear view mirror, and May is upon us, we are reminded that another amazing school year is coming to a close. At the last Board of Education meeting, I asked the same question that we ask ourselves every year..."Are we better off as a district than we were a year ago?" The answer, based upon the feedback of the over 3,400 parents, students and staff who took the time to fill out our annual Strategic Plan survey is a resounding YES! It is quite reassuring to know the work that we are putting into reaching the goals of the Smithtown 2027 Strategic Plan is resonating with our stakeholders.

During that board meeting, I shared the data from the most recent survey that provided us with very positive and important feedback. The presentation can be accessed below:

- [Smithtown 2027: Strategic Plan Update](#)

During the Board of Education meeting scheduled for May 12, I look forward to sharing an overview of the many great things that are happening in Smithtown via the "*Points of Pride*" presentation.

While we are very proud of the work we are doing, we realize there is much more we can do to realize the full 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.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition!

Sincerely,
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.



CURRICULUM CORNER

IT'S AN HONOR: HONOR SPEAKERS CHOSEN!

Smithtown High School West senior Kristin McGuire and High School East senior, Madeline McCullough have been selected by their classmates as this year's commencement speaker, a true honor, announced at the respective annual Gold Cord Breakfasts.

"It's a big honor. I was a little surprised," Kristin shared. "If I had to guess why I was chosen, I think people know I'm a hard worker, very diligent, and I like to think of myself as a leader."

As she looks ahead to graduation, Kristin says she is eager to craft a speech that stands out. She plans to take her time developing a message and promises not to use ChatGPT!

Madeline said she's really excited to speak to the graduation class and plans on telling the student body to "live in the moment" at commencement.

"Overjoyed, this is something I've been dreaming about since 5th grade," Madeline said. The Gold Cord Breakfast celebrated students who have achieved a cumulative 4.0 GPA, as well as those earning a 4.4 GPA—recognized as Gold Cord with distinction.

Congratulations to everyone!



Kristin McGuire



Madeline McCullough



CURRICULUM CORNER

PARP BUDDIES

Students at Smithtown Elementary school had some pretty special guest readers for PARP (Pick A Reading Partner) week.

SCSD Superintendent, Dr. Secaur, read to Mrs. Parendo and Ms. Appello's fourth grade classes. Dr. Brenda Clark, SCSD Administrator for Special Education and Special Services, read to Mrs. Patrissi's and Mrs. Clifford's classes.

Additionally, Mr. Paul Strader, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Assessment, was a special guest in all of the kindergarten classes.



MURAL MAKERS MAKE BIG IMPACT

Accompsett Elementary students are helping to change the world.

The Mural Makers Club created these amazing pet portraits that were dropped off at the Brookhaven Animal Shelter this month. The art was inspired by pop artist, Dean Russo.

The artwork will be hung in the shelter and it will go home with the dogs once they are adopted.

Amazing!



COOKING UP A WINNER! 🧑🍳

Mrs. Smith's Chef's Choice 2 class at High School East is keeping a delicious tradition alive: welcoming guest chefs to share their favorite recipes and culinary skills!

The first round was a huge hit, featuring Mr. Lauto's sweet and savory fried plantains, Mrs. Hurski's crowd-pleasing cheeseburger casserole, and Mr. Russo's classic homemade meatballs and sauce served over pasta.

Students not only got a taste of these incredible dishes, but also the stories and techniques behind them—and they're already hungry for what's coming next!



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

MAD ABOUT SCIENCE

The Mad Science Lab was back in the SCSD---and Smithtown Elementary students had quite the chemical reaction...of smiles! Third graders were treated to an exciting presentation of science from Shannon Sass from Mad Science of Long Island! The presentation included unique, hands-on science experiences for our young scientists.

Thank you to the Smithtown Elementary PTA for bringing this educational and entertaining program to our students.



BRIDGING THE GAP TO GREATNESS!

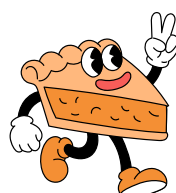
Young scientists from High School West entered the Brookhaven National Laboratory Annual Bridge engineering challenge to design, build and test their bridges against several hundred applicants from across all of Long Island.

Our team produced two high-scoring bridges in the top 10 percent of qualified bridges.

Congratulations to the following students: Left to right - top row: Landon Silva, Aaron Matvenko, Austin Read, Ryan Davidsen, Matt Galletta, Ishaanth Reddy Guduru, Bryan Lin, Connor Serper. Left to right - bottom row: Jacob Bergman, Anna Tolu, Giuliana Panzini, Sean Lee and Hanbin Luo.



PIE-FACED PRINCIPAL!



Tackan Elementary students headed into spring recess on a sweet (and hilarious!) note, while Principal Furey got an early taste of dessert, thanks to his students!

As part of the Boosterthon fundraising celebration, students submitted ideas for the "Principal's Challenge" to be completed once their goal was met. The winning choice? Pie Mr. Furey in the face—not once, but "six or seven" times!

Students who recently completed their PARP challenges were entered into a raffle, and one lucky student from each grade earned the honor of delivering a pie to the principal.

Head to our FB page [HERE](#) to see the video!



COMMUNITY NEWS

A NOTE-WORTHY HONOR

The Smithtown Central School District is proud to announce that it has been recognized as one of the best communities in the nation for music education!

“I am so very proud of our district’s commitment to fostering a strong music education program from kindergarten through high school,” said SCSD Director of Fine Arts, Victoria Hartman. “This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our incredibly dedicated music teachers and the unwavering support of our administration, Board of Education, and the entire Smithtown community.”

This distinction comes from the NAMM Foundation’s Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) award, which honors school districts and schools across the United States for their outstanding commitment to providing accessible, high-quality music education. The award celebrates the collective efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who ensure music remains an essential part of a well-rounded education.

Music to our ears!

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

The SCSD was well represented at this year’s SCOPE Education Service Award dinner. Mt. Pleasant Elementary Principal Joe Ierano was honored with the Administrator award, Accomsett Middle School Library Media Specialist, Donna DeLuca was recognized with a teacher award, and High School East Chief Custodian George Maier was honored for his many years of service to our district.

Additionally, each year, the Council of Administrators and Supervisors (CAS) recognizes highly skilled public school administrators from Nassau and Suffolk Counties with a CAS Administrator of the Year Award.

Nesaquake Middle School Principal, Dan McCabe, has been selected as a 2025-2026 CAS Administrator of the Year!

Congratulations and well deserved!

JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

There are several openings in the Smithtown Central School District. Those interested can submit a letter, resume, and two professional references to Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Neil Katz at: employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us



WE'RE HIRING - JOIN OUR TEAM!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR
✓ SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONITORS:
shifts are 2.5-3 hours per day between 11:45 AM-2:15 PM
\$17.00 per hour

FOOD SERVICE WORKERS:
\$17.47 per hour

SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDES:
various shifts available for all levels including elementary, middle and high schools: \$20.75 per hour - maximum 3 hours per day

SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY

Send a resume and letter of interest to: employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us or call (631) 382-2170 for more information



COMMUNITY NEWS

ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL ART SHOW

Student artists from across the Smithtown Central School District proudly showcased their work this past weekend at the St. James Center for the Arts during the “All Things Beautiful” Art Show.

The exhibit was a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and connection, featuring talented student work from Accomsett Elementary School, Accomsett Middle School, Great Hollow Middle School, Mills Pond Elementary School, Nesaquake Middle School, Smithtown High School East, Smithtown High School West, St. James Elementary School, and Tackan Elementary School.

The show highlighted the diverse talents and artistic voices of Smithtown CSD students at every grade level.

Congratulations to all our young artists for sharing their creativity and inspiring the community!



PAYING IT FORWARD

High School East Leadership students are making a meaningful impact beyond the classroom by spending time with residents at Lakeshore Assisted Living and Amber Court Assisted Living. Through simple but powerful acts like giving manicures, playing games and sharing conversations, students are building connections and bringing joy to others.

“These visits remind us that leadership is about service, compassion and showing up for your community,” said High School East social studies teacher, Joseph Toth. “We’re so proud of our students for spreading kindness and making a difference one smile at a time.”



FAIRY TALE BALL

After weeks of excitement and preparation, second graders at Dogwood Elementary School brought storybooks to life as they transformed into their favorite fairy tale characters for the school’s beloved annual Fairy Tale Ball, held on March 30. Dressed in creative costumes, students sang, danced, and delighted families with a magical performance to remember.

A cherished tradition at Dogwood, the Fairy Tale Ball serves as the grand finale to the second grade’s reading and writing exploration of the fairy tale genre. This year, students presented performances involving "Little Red Riding Hood", "The Three Little Pigs" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."

Blending English Language Arts and Social Studies, the experience gave students a chance to showcase both their creativity and their learning in a meaningful way.



SPORTS ZONE

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR!

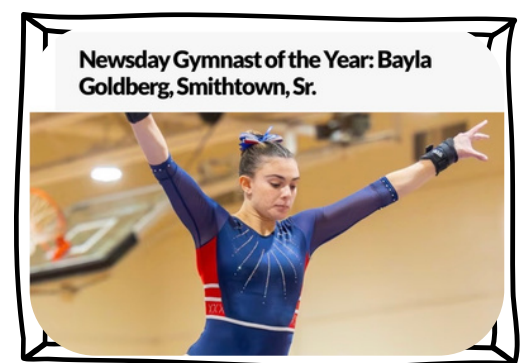
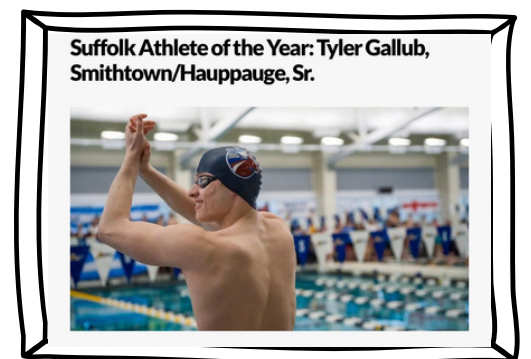
High School East's Bayla Goldberg and Tyler Gallub have added more hardware to their storied high school athletic careers!

Gallub was named Newsday's Suffolk Athlete of the Year for swimming after helping Smithtown/Hauppauge to a fourth-place team finish at the state championships. Individually, he placed third in the state in the 50-yard freestyle (20.51 seconds) and seventh in the 100-yard freestyle (46.07).

Gallub will join his brother, Dylan, in the pool at SUNY Geneseo next fall.

Bayla was named Newsday Gymnast of the Year after leading Smithtown to its fourth county title in five years at the Suffolk team championships in November, winning all four events to earn a near-perfect all-around score of 38.4. She tied for 11th in the all-around at the state championship, including a fourth-place finish on bars with a 9.575.

Goldberg became Smithtown's first six-year varsity athlete, making the varsity gymnastics squad in seventh grade. Goldberg will continue her gymnastics career at Utica University.



SIGNING DAY SUCCESS!

Smithtown Central School District Director of Athletics, Jason Lambert, led two college commitment ceremonies for High School East and West student athletes on April 22.

"The amount of success the senior class has had since they walked through the doors four years ago is incredible...you have set the bar for future classes," Lambert told students and parents. "Today is a day to celebrate all of our student athletes, their parents and their accomplishments."

As family members smiled, took pictures and applauded, seniors proudly wore their college colors as they get ready to embark on the next step of their journey.



HONORING ONE OF OUR OWN

The Smithtown East and West varsity baseball teams took a moment before their game this month to honor a true local hero, Michael "Mick" Ackerman, the late husband of SCSD Board of Education member Bernadette Ackerman.

Before the game held at Smithtown East, flowers were presented to Bernadette and her daughter, Delaney. Bernadette's son, James, then threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

A retired NYPD Sergeant, Mick exemplified courage, service, and selflessness—both in his career and in the community he loved. He was also among the many who responded in the aftermath of September 11th, a service that ultimately came at a great personal cost. In August 2025, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer related to his time at Ground Zero. Mr. Ackerman passed away last month.

Mick dedicated countless hours coaching youth football with the Smithtown Bulls, baseball with the Nesconset Panthers and Smithtown/St. James Little League, and supporting his daughter Delaney's travel softball teams.

