

# SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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**DECEMBER 2025**





# SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

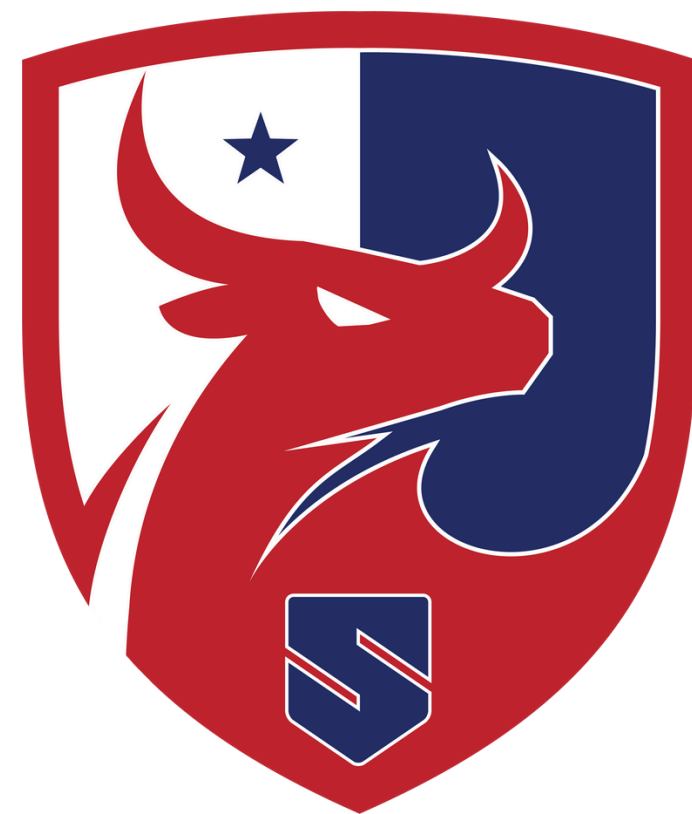
Dear Students, Staff, and Families,

As we reach the end of 2025, I want to share my deepest gratitude for the dedication and heart you bring to our school community every day. This season offers us a precious opportunity to pause, reflect on our shared achievements, and recharge alongside those we love.

I am continually inspired by the resilience of our students and the unwavering support of our educators and families. May your holiday break be filled with warmth, rest, and joy. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for another season of growth and learning.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday and a very happy 2026.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Secaur





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## NESAQUAKE ALL-STARS

Nesaquake Middle School honored this quarter's All-Star students. These outstanding students are nominated by teachers across all subjects for consistently demonstrating the qualities we value most—kindness, determination, courage, honesty, and humility.

Unlike other award programs, Nesaquake All-Stars are not held to a specific grade point average requirement. Instead, students nominated as All-Stars meet and exceed expectations set by our school, our community, and our classroom teachers.

After the morning's ceremony, students and their families were invited to gather for breakfast.



## NICHOLAS, NASA & NEWSDAY

Nicholas Cardi, a sophomore at High School West, is collaborating on a project with NASA called Radio JOVE that has captured the attention of Newsday.

The program lets students, teachers, and amateur scientists build simple radio telescopes to observe natural radio emissions from Jupiter, the Sun, and our galaxy.

High School West Science Research Coordinator, Brian Snyder, found out about the program and introduced Nicholas to it.

Read the article [HERE](#)



## SHINING A ON SAFETY

Fifth graders in Diana Lanze's Mills Pond Elementary class took part in an exciting Safety Town program presented by PSEG. Students explored how to stay safe around everyday electrical components and learned smart safety tips they can use at home and in the community.

Next up, they'll put their knowledge to work by creating their very own public service announcement posters to help spread the word about electrical safety.





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## TEAM 810 MAKING MAJOR IMPACT

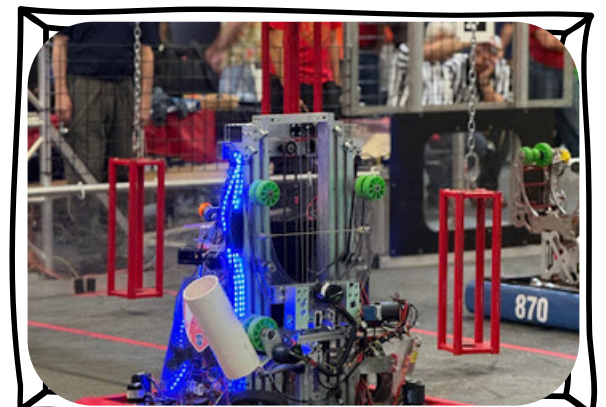
The Smithtown Robotics Team has been making a major impact locally, nationally, and even internationally!

♥ G.I.R.L.S. Night brought together female students in grades 6–12 for a night of inspiration, mentorship, and hands-on STEM conversations. With engineers, educators, alumni, and robotics team members leading panels and Q&As, attendees left feeling empowered and excited about their future in STEM.

🤖 The team was recently presented a \$250.00 donation check by the Executive Board of The Nesconset Chamber of Commerce at Smithtown High School East. More than 50 students participated in the 2025 Summer Concert Series by building, programming and operating their very own robot, which the community knows as the concert's T-Shirt Canon Robot!

🌍 In an incredible global collaboration, our students spent months mentoring a robotics team from Botswana as they prepared for the FIRST Global Challenge in Panama. Weekly virtual meetings, design feedback, and problem solving across time zones and tech challenges helped Team Botswana compete with confidence.

Huge shoutout to advisors Dave Savage, Brian Sheridan, and CTE Director Christine LoFrese for guiding a program where leadership, teamwork, and innovation thrive.



## JET SETTERS!

High School East and West students in Mr. Henning's and Mr. Costello's Sports Marketing classes recently participated in the New York Jets Sports Business Day at MetLife Stadium. Sports Marketing is a class offered in the CTE Business Department.

Students were guided through different stadium areas and heard from business executives in sales, marketing, social media, and public relations. Those in attendance were able to listen to experiences from Jets executives and network with other schools from across the tri-state area. The tour included views from the field, press boxes, the locker room, and more!





# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## PAGEANT PERFECTION!

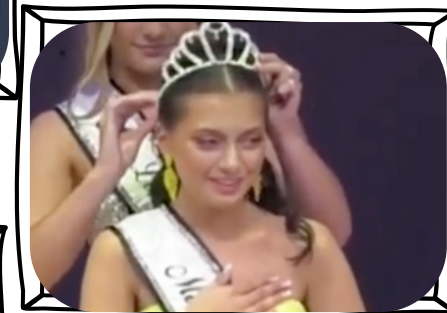
Congratulations to our new Miss Long Island Teen 2026, Shyla Silva!

Shyla, a sophomore at High School West, was recently named Miss Long Island Teen 2026 after impressing the judges with her platform, Shyla Cares, a nonprofit focused on inspiring youth volunteerism and community engagement.

Shyla started modeling and acting at an early age and has been competing in pageants since she was 8 years old.

"Doing pageants helps in other aspects in life such as interviewing and public speaking...it's been a great experience."

Shyla will represent Long Island at community events, appearances, and eventually on the Miss New York USA and Miss New York Teen USA stages.



## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

The Accomsett Middle School Select Chorus lit up Smithtown's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony with a fantastic performance, using their voices to bring holiday cheer to the entire community.

"I am so proud of the kids' hard work, and truly appreciate that they are taking the time to use their talents to give back to the community," said Mrs. Brosnan, director of the AMS Select Chorus.

"I also love that this Smithtown tradition has ultimately become our own tradition as well, and it's something that we genuinely look forward to every year. We can't wait to do it again next year!"



## PUT IT IN WRITING!

Congrats to our H.S. East Science Research students for an outstanding performance in the Stony Brook Young Investigators Review writing competition!

Finalists: Anthony Guidi, Hannah Sack, Tyler Nicastro

Semi-finalists: Madelyn Geldmacher, Yuran Tang, Jia Muckadackal, Khush Mehta

Students wrote 750–1,000 word articles on topics ranging from personalized medicine and nuclear energy to quantum computing and space travel. Their hard work and research will be featured in Stony Brook University's digital journal.

Great job, Bulls! 🐮🌟





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

In 1950, you could buy a house for under \$9,000, a car for just over \$1,500, and a gallon of milk for only \$0.83.

That same year, Smithtown Elementary School was born!

Today, SEL hosted a special assembly celebrating its 75th birthday.

Leading the ceremony was Mr. Paul Graf, who served as principal of Smithtown Elementary for 25 years. Mr. Graf shared stories about the school's rich history alongside former students and now SEL teachers, Alyssa Doig (first-grade teacher) and Erin Sweeney (ELL teacher).

A special shout-out goes to fourth-grade teacher and instructional specialist Christine Pitrelli for creating the wonderful slideshow presentation, as well as to Mrs. Anna Aiuto for assisting with the coloring of the building maps.



## THAT'S THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

Three hundred and twenty-four cozy items were collected by Dogwood students to be donated to those in need this winter.

Thank you Mrs. Concagh & class for coordinating this for the Smithtown Children's Foundation.



## 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](mailto: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 2:25-5:55 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 - minimum 3 hours per day  
Send a resume and letter of interest to: [employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us](mailto:employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us) or call (631) 382-2170 for more information  
SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY





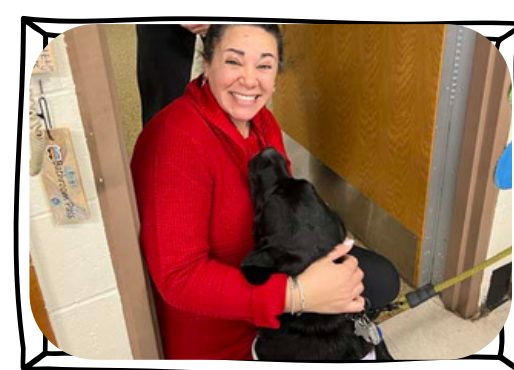
# COMMUNITY NEWS

## A DOGGONE GOOD TIME! 🐾

Members of the animal organization Paws of War paid a special visit to Smithtown Elementary, meeting with third and fourth grade students in the Pay It Forward Club.

Students learned about the many programs Paws of War provide for veterans, military members, and first responders. The organization enriches lives through the rescue and training of service dogs for independence, adoption services, the rescue of overseas animals in war zones, and other essential programs that support our heroes in need.

The Pay It Forward Club, led by advisor Christine Pitrelli, will now be exploring ways to give back and show their generosity toward these special heroes. Students especially enjoyed learning from and interacting with the therapy dogs today!



## ★ STARS ON STAGE ★

Several familiar faces from across the district took the stage in *The Nutcracker* at Hofstra University and *A Christmas Carol* in Port Jefferson this month.

Laila DarConte of Accomsett Middle School, Giulia Katz of Smithtown Elementary, Sonya Russo of High School East, Juliette Struss of Mills Pond Elementary, and Mary Calefato of Great Hollow Middle School, all performed in this year's production.

Meanwhile at Theatre Three in Port Jefferson, Great Hollow Middle School sixth grader Adriana Como was cast as Belinda Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* and performed for Smithtown's seventh graders during their annual class trip on December 23.



Sonya Russo  
Smithtown H.S. East



Mary Calefato  
Great Hollow Middle School



Giulia Katz  
Smithtown Elementary



Juliette Struss  
Mills Pond Elementary



Laila DarConte  
Accompsett Middle School



"A Christmas Carol"  
Adriana Como: Great Hollow MS





# SPORTS ZONE

## CASCIONE NAMED TOP DB IN SUFFOLK!

High School West football standout Michael Cascione, who recorded five interceptions this season, earned the Tom Cassese Award as the top defensive back at the Suffolk County Football Coaches Association dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge.

“It’s an honor to receive this award, but the credit goes to my coaches for putting me in the best position on the field at free safety,” Michael said.

Michael was selected as a First Team All Long Island player and was also a finalist for:

- Newsday’s Carl A. Hansen Award (Suffolk’s most outstanding player)
- The Joe Cipp Award (county’s top running back)
- The Burnett Award (best defensive player in the county)

He also earned All-County honors along with teammates Jake Rearick, Nick DeVito, and Nick Zins. Zins was one of three finalists for the Collatta Award, given to the county’s top linebacker.

## THREE CHEERS FOR EAST!

It was a great month to be a Smithtown East Cheerleader as the team was named UCA Regional Champions and earned a bid to Nationals for Traditional & Game Day!

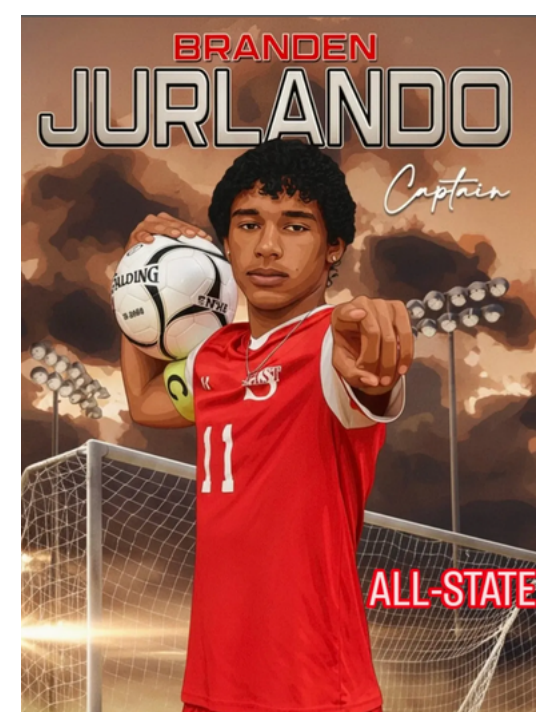
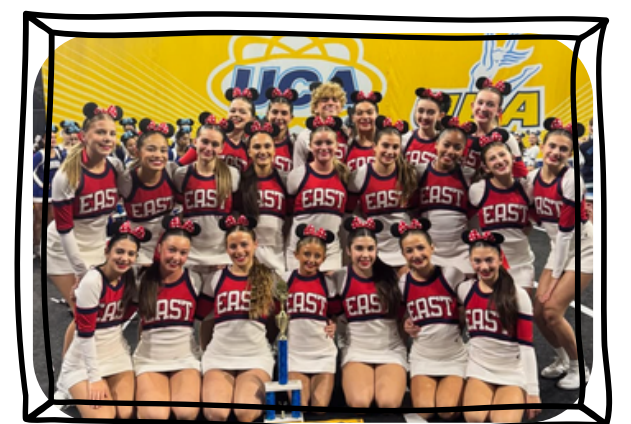
## ALL-STATE!

Congratulations to High School East’s Branden Jurlando for being named to the New York All-State Team!

One of only six players from Suffolk AA to earn this great honor in 2025, Branden was a standout on the field this fall and is now the 5th East player in the last five seasons to receive All-State recognition!

Branden is a four-year varsity letterman, a 2025 team captain and also was a 2025 Suffolk Senior All-Star game selection.

Way to go, Branden!





# SPORTS ZONE

## SMITHTOWN BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLAR ATHLETES!



**Great Hollow M.S.  
Boys & Girls  
Cross Country  
GPA: 3.97**



**Accompsett M.S.  
Boys & Girls  
Cross Country  
GPA: 3.81**



**Nesaquake M.S.  
Girls  
Soccer  
GPA: 3.92**

