



SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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*Superintendent's
Message*



District Update



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Focus on Achievement



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Sports Zone



FEBRUARY 2025



SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope that you all had the opportunity to enjoy last week's winter recess and this week's warmer temperatures. As you know, March can come in like a lion and out like a lamb, so we will continue to keep an eye on the weather and notify you if there will be any impacts to school.

This weekend, I will be attending the New York State Council of School Superintendents Winter Institute & Lobby Day in Albany. The institute is one of two major professional development events that the Council presents on an annual basis for Superintendents throughout the state. This year's theme is "Expanding the Horizon: The Promise of Public Education." At the institute, I will have the opportunity to participate in a meeting as a member of the Council's Federal Legislative Committee as well as attend several other workshops and hear from a variety of keynote speakers. I will also participate in "Lobby Day" by visiting with Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick and State Senator Mario Mattera in their Albany offices. At those meetings I will be advocating for responsible legislative reforms that ensure sustainable funding for our public schools.

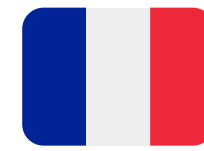
We hope you enjoy this month's edition!

Sincerely,
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.



CURRICULUM CORNER

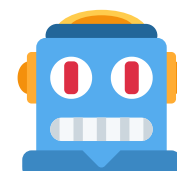
FOR THE LOVE OF LANGUAGE



It is that time of year where the World Language Department presented to sixth graders their World Language choices for the 2025-26 school year! Instructors shared the language choices of: French, German, Italian, and Spanish. They highlight the program goals, the curriculum structure, and present the progression of language choices starting in 7th grade through 12th grade. The World Language department explains how the curriculum incorporates the cultural aspects of each language to deepen understanding and most of all love for a new language!



FIFTH GRADE ROBOTICS!

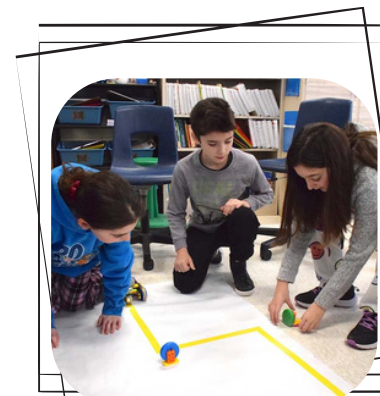
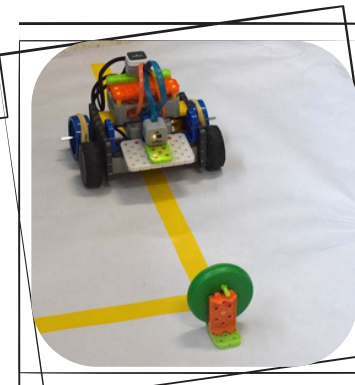


Fifth grade students in the district are loving the new Robotics Enrichment Program, piloted last spring by Mills Pond STEM Instructional Specialist, Serena Spata.

"It was important to me that our new enrichment program was the best that it could be for our fifth graders," Spata stated. "I also wanted to be sure that every student across the district had the same wonderful experience."

The program began this past fall and runs through the spring. The motto for the program is: "We listen, collaborate, compromise, and bounce back from setbacks!"

Currently, students are working through Autonomous Coding Level II. Students code the robots to move autonomously using color sensors. Students are learning problem solving skills, because as Mrs. Spata told the students, "It's not the robot doing something wrong, it's our code."



CURRICULUM CORNER

A LOOK AT LIFE: FCS STYLE

Students in middle school are taking Family And Consumer Science classes, which focus on career exploration and matching jobs with brain skills and lifestyles.

Sixth grade students are learning about time and stress management and getting hands-on sewing experiences.

In seventh grade, our young learners are delving into consumerism and financial management, learning about budgeting, bill paying, etc. They're also being educated on nutrition and making healthy food and lifestyle choices as well as kitchen safety.

Eighth grade students are learning about health and nutrition, recipe reading, food safety, career choices, job interview skills, and much, much, more!



ORDER IN THE COURT! 🧑⚖️

Ms. Miller's and Mrs. Massimo's College Business Law students recently had an unforgettable field trip to the Central Islip courts! They had the privilege of meeting with Assistant District Attorneys and Judge Sachs, a criminal law judge, who shared invaluable life and career advice, reminding everyone to "do the right thing."

The day continued with a powerful session in arraignment court, where Judge Jacobs spoke directly to our students from the bench about the importance of "saying no to drugs" and surrounding themselves with quality friends.

Students witnessed real-life court proceedings, gaining a hands-on understanding of the legal system while seeing justice in action.



College Business Law is offered through the CTE School of Business, where students can earn 6 College Credits through LIU Post.



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

SUPER AT SPELLING!

Please join us in congratulating Accomsett Middle School 8th grade student, Olivia Lipiec, Great Hollow 6th grade student, Xavier Zhao, Nesaquake Middle School 6th grade student, Elizabeth Dimas and Mt. Pleasant Elementary 5th grade student, Neriah Salinas on winning their school spelling bees!

Neriah's winning word was "lavishly", Xavier's winning word was "veterinarian", Elizabeth's was "magenta" and Olivia's winning word was ablution.

It's the third consecutive year Olivia has won her school Spelling Bee!



FULL STEAM AHEAD

High School West senior, Heng Ye, has won the Congressional App Challenge for New York's First District, for his LIRR simulator project. Ye was the driving force behind a LIRR simulator cab being available for public use at the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum.

The cab has been at the museum for more than half a decade, but sat idle. So Ye reached out to museum officials and offered his computer programming services to help transform it for public use, complete with sights and sounds of an actual ride.

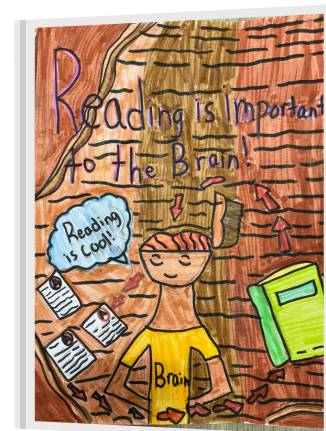


READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

Great Hollow Middle School sixth grade student, Vivian Santiago, was one of 12 winners statewide in a new contest that challenged children to express their thoughts on why literacy is critical to health and wellness. The inaugural Every Child Reads Student Awards, coordinated by the New York State PTA, received 55 submissions from K-12 students, asked participants to create a poster, video or essay in response to the question "Why is reading important to your health and wellness?"

Vivian, who has won several art awards, says her motivation for the contest was her younger brother. "My brother loves books. He loves ELA," Vivian told us. "Reading is good for your brain."

Congratulations, Vivian and thank you to ELA teacher, Mary Ellen Nelson.



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

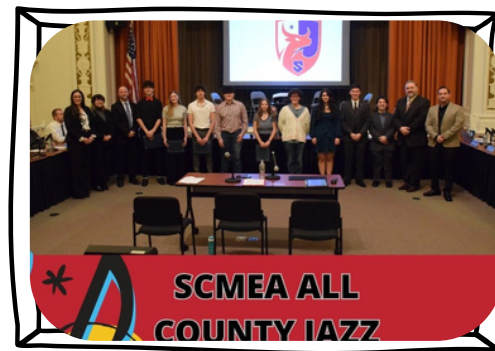
MUSICAL EXCELLENCE!

Smithtown High School East and West musicians were recognized for their wonderful musical achievements at Tuesday night's Board of Education Meeting.

SCSD Director of Fine Arts, Victoria Hartman, a SCSD graduate herself, thanked the students, their teachers and their families.

The following students have been selected for, and participated in the NYSCAME All County Ensembles, LISFA 11-12 Orchestra, SCMEA All County Jazz ensemble, NYSSMA All State ensembles and the NAFME All Eastern ensembles.

The SCSD extends heartfelt congratulations to these talented students and their families. Congratulations!



A "PICTURE PERFECT" NIGHT



Under the direction of Smithtown Elementary art teacher, Mrs. Kerim, the SEL cafeteria and hallways were turned into a Winter Wonderland with a Valentine's Twist.

Snowflakes, nutcrackers, snowmen and even Valentines Day owls decorated the walls for family members to enjoy.

"We saw student excitement for art grow each week as we were coming closer to the show," shared Dr. Kakalos.

As an added feature, Mr. Tim Needles worked with fourth and fifth graders and created animated winter animals that played on a loop in the cafeteria. The SEL PTA further complemented the evening by selling hot chocolate and spirit wear.

SCSD Director of Fine Arts, Victoria Hartman, said the event really showcased what students in the district have to offer.

"Everywhere I looked, parents were beaming with pride as they snapped photos of their children standing beside their incredible masterpieces."



What an awesome evening!



COMMUNITY NEWS

MAGNIFICENT MARIA!

High School East science research coordinator, Maria Zeitlin, has received the Nichols Foundation Chemistry Teacher Award from the NY Section of the American Chemical Society! This award recognizes an outstanding high school chemistry teacher who demonstrates teaching excellence, student inspiration, and extracurricular leadership.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive this award from the American Chemical Society and to be in the company of dedicated scientists, educators, and advocates," Zeitlin exclaimed. "This award has even more meaning to me because my nomination originated with Dr. Stephanie O'Brien, a fellow ACS Nichols Award winner, and someone for whom I have immense respect. I was blessed to have my children in attendance at this beautiful site for this wonderful occasion."

Ms. Zeitlin was honored at a ceremony at the University of Mt. Saint Vincent in the Bronx.



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

High School West seniors, Brianna Frayler, Ava Thomas, Isabella DiClemente, Samantha Becker and Emma Risolo met with Town council members to propose sunscreen dispensers at local beaches and parks.

The proposal is the Civic Capstone Project that the students need to complete to earn the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness.

Well done!



COMMUNITY NEWS

MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD

Smithtown High School East seniors, Gabe Finger and Sophia Trivigno, traveled to Albany on Feb. 11 and joined the Long Island Lobby Coalition to speak one-on-one with members of the senate, assembly, and governor's staff to advocate for passing the Students for Solar Act (S1986). They highlighted the success of Smithtown High School West's solar array for its environmental benefits, and for the cost savings that go directly back into our schools.

The students were met with applause and admiration for their passion to make a difference.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

Mr. Michael Toth's eighth grade social studies elective students at Accomsett Middle School have won a \$2,500 grant for the Smithtown Food Pantry through the national leadership organization, Lead4Change.

The students created a lesson plan for Accomsett Elementary students on hunger and food insecurity and also read children's books to the young students to inspire giving.

The team collected over 1,200 items in the food drive that were donated to the Smithtown Food Pantry.



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 ARE
HIRING!**

**JOIN
OUR TEAM**

Special Education Aides: various shifts available for all levels including elementary, middle and high schools.
\$20.39 per hour. Minimum 3 hours per day.

Elementary School Monitors: shifts are 2.25-2.5 hours per day between 11:45 AM-2:15 PM. \$17.00 per hour.

Food Service Worker and Custodial Worker positions also available.

> NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

> WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR

> SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF

SCAN
QR CODE
TO APPLY

SEND A RESUME AND LETTER OF INTEREST TO: EMPLOYMENT@SMITHTOWN.K12.NY.US
TO APPLY OR CALL (631) 382-2170 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



SPORTS ZONE

CHAMPS! 🏆

Congratulations to the following Winter Season Champions!

Teams: H.S. West girls varsity basketball, girls varsity bowling, Smithtown/Hauppauge swim/dive.

Athletes: H.S. East varsity track - Rayshelle Brown, H.S. East Smithtown/Hauppauge diver - Danielle Krause, H.S. East Suffolk County wrestling champion - Matt McDermott, and league wrestling champions William Noto (HSW), Xavier Pineda (HSE), Colten Ford (HSW), and Dylan Reinard (HSE)

NATIONALS !!!

The Smithtown High School East and High School West varsity cheer and kickline teams rocked the "House of Mouse" in their respective cheerleading and kickline National Championships, held in Orlando, Fl.

HSW kickline won the NDA Medium Varsity Kick National Championship!

HSE kickline placed 4th in the Large High Kick Category.

HSW cheer finished in 3rd Place Small Division II Game Day 🏆 and 12th Place Small Division II Traditional.

HSE cheer finished sixth in the nation in the Small COED Varsity Game Day Division!



**GIRLS
BOWLING**



**BOYS
SWIM/DIVE**



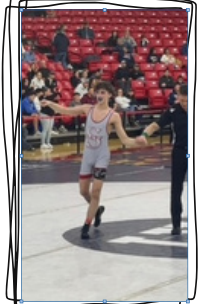
**HSW
GIRLS BASKETBALL**



**Rayshelle
Brown**



**Danielle
Krause**



**Matt
McDermott**



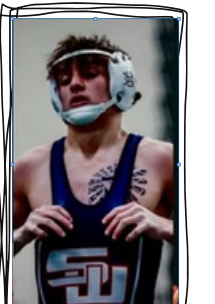
**Dylan
Reinard**



**William
Noto**



**Xavier
Pineda**



**Colten
Ford**



H.S. WEST



H.S.EAST



H.S. WEST



H.S. EAST

