

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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FEBRUARY 2026



SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope that you all had the opportunity to enjoy last week's "extended" winter recess. We have certainly endured some strong storms, but warmer days are ahead! Nonetheless, we will continue to keep an eye on the weather and notify you if there will be any impacts to school. I'd be remiss if I didn't praise the work of our Facilities Staff and Custodians for the efforts they put forth to prepare our buildings and grounds for the return of our students and staff after the recent blizzard. They did a fantastic job and we are beyond grateful for their work ethic and commitment to our school community.

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 "Advancing Innovation: Empowering Transformation for Leading & Learning." At the institute, I will have the opportunity to attend several important workshops and hear from a variety of keynote speakers. It will also provide me with a chance to discuss issues of mutual concern with colleagues from our region and throughout the state.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition

Sincerely,
Dr. Secaur

Many Thanks to our amazing Facilities Staff and Custodians for all their hard work!!



CURRICULUM CORNER

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Six students from High School East and West recently graduated from the BAE Systems Women in Technology (WiT) Program. Congratulations to Asha Andrews, Veronika Leshko, and Giuliana Panzini from H.S. West, and Ela Tezgiden, Isabella Scioscia, and Varshitha Prithivi from H.S. East!

During the nine week program, students explored mechanical, electrical, software, and systems engineering while completing hands-on projects. Participants designed and 3D printed models using Fusion 360 and created electronic systems to solve real-world problems, including sensors, games, and electronic locks. Students also toured BAE Systems facilities and learned about advanced technologies such as AI and manufacturing systems.

The WiT Program is a partnership between local high schools and BAE Systems that provides mentorship and hands-on STEM experiences for young women. This year marks Smithtown's largest graduating group to date.

Thank you to BAE Systems for this opportunity, and congratulations to these talented students!



FUN WITH STEM!

The Smithtown High School East Math Honor Society, along with the Robotics Club, Science Honor Society, Physics Club, and Computer Science Club, recently hosted their second annual STEM Fun Night. The event welcomed elementary and middle school students and their families for an evening of interactive, hands-on learning in math and science.

Participants explored a variety of engaging activities, including counting Skittles to learn about probability, coloring fractals, building Soma Cubes, launching a catapult, and experimenting with robotics, just to name a few.

The event drew more than 200 students and family members and also supported a great cause, collecting over six boxes of food for the Smithtown Food Pantry.

STEM Fun Night was a resounding success, inspiring curiosity, creativity, and community involvement.



CURRICULUM CORNER

PERFECT PLAN FOR EAST & WEST VE STUDENTS

We are incredibly proud to announce that the Virtual Enterprise firms from High School East & West have advanced to the Top 50 in the NYS Business Plan Competition, an outstanding achievement in a highly competitive field! This year's competition featured over 2,300 students, 150+ firms, 110 facilitators, and 60+ judges and volunteers from across New York State and New England. Advancing to the Top 50 is a true testament to dedication, creativity, and real-world business excellence. The teams below will continue competing in the next round of competition at the end of February, with hopes of advancing to the finals at the Youth Business Summit in NYC this April. Their innovation, teamwork, and professionalism continue to raise the bar. Good luck and congratulations on this incredible achievement!



READBowl TOUCHDOWN!

Students at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School recently finished watching the Super Bowl and participating in READBowl. READBowl is a nationwide reading competition sponsored by former NFL player, Malcolm Mitchell, where students of all ages log and track minutes spent reading over the month.

Students participated in a full day in-school Read-a-Thon to experience the many ways one can get lost in a book. Students enjoyed a live author read-aloud, a surprise virtual read aloud from Mr. Mitchell, who is also an author, as well as buddy and flashlight reading.

Students have been tracking their minutes spent reading in school and independently at home for the last four weeks, or "quarters," of the competition.

Together, Ms. Wilcox and Ms. Carson's students read a total of 127,931 minutes.



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

LEADING THE WAY

High School East students James Huxtable and Matthew Trabulsi and High School West students Ryan Davidsen and Jacob Bergman have been named recipients of the National School Development Council (NSDC) Award, which exemplifies academic growth and student leadership.

This award is presented to high school seniors who have consistently pursued a high level of academic effort and have also served as positive role models for their student body. Recipients of the award exemplify admirable character and accomplishment.

Congratulations and thank you to guidance counselors Michele Randall, Isabella Aviles, Kelly Brouthers and Marissa Urso.



SPELLING 🐝 SUCCESS!

After 14 intense rounds of spelling, Nesaquake Middle School sixth grader, Sienna McDermott is the winner of the school wide round of the Scripps Spelling Bee!

🌟 to runner-up, sixth grade student, Declan Corry!

A big thank you to our judges, Mr. Parmegiani and Mrs. Flynn, for donating their time and support.

Sienna will now advance to the written test round for a chance to qualify for the regional competition in March. We're cheering you on! 🎉📖



READING SCORES A GOAL! 🏒

Accompsett Elementary second grade student, Alex Lawlor has been named a winner in the Smithtown Library Bookmark Contest!

Alex's winning design, titled "Stick With Reading," features a hockey player and will be displayed across all Smithtown Library branches this May.

Congratulations to Alex, and a special thank you to his teacher, Ms. Ress, for supporting his creativity! 🙌🌟



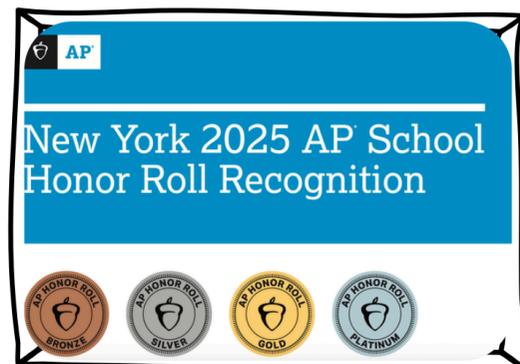
SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

GOLD STANDARD IN AP EXCELLENCE! 🏆

Smithtown High School East and West have both earned Gold-level recognition on the 2025 AP School Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to just 1,169 high schools nationwide for outstanding AP programs.

This honor highlights our schools' commitment to expanding access to rigorous coursework while supporting student success. Only 7% of eligible high schools in the United States and Canada received AP Honor Roll Gold recognition this year, making this achievement even more meaningful.

🌟 Congratulations to our dedicated students, teachers, counselors, and administrators whose hard work and collaboration made this possible!



SCIENCE STARS! 🌟

We are incredibly proud of our H.S. West students who recently excelled at the Suffolk County Division C Regional Competition held at Hauppauge High School. Competing in a crowded field of 65 teams, Team A secured 8th place overall, earning a prestigious invitation to the New York State Division C Competition at Le Moyne College this March.

The success was a true group effort:

- Top 10 finishes were achieved in 10 different events.
- Success spanned across both Team A and Team B.
- This marks the third consecutive year Team A has qualified for the State competition.

Congratulations to all our hardworking students on this outstanding accomplishment!



"PENUMBRA" IS EXCELLENT!

Out of 456 student literary magazine submissions from schools across the country, Penumbra, produced by students at Smithtown High School West, has been recognized as an "excellent" literary magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

This distinction is awarded through NCTE's Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) program, which honors outstanding student-produced literary magazines created with the support of dedicated educators. The REALM program encourages schools nationwide to develop publications that celebrate the art, craft, and power of student writing.

Congratulations to Smithtown High School West English teacher Rob Kuletsky and the student editors and contributors: Noah Millar, Maxwell Alpert, Iman Khan, Kaitlynn Jho, Sophia Marmara, Alexis DiBernardo, Mariella Myers, and Gwen Fitzpatrick.



COMMUNITY NEWS

WINTER OLYMPICS...AT TACKAN!

The Winter Olympics are underway in Italy...and Tackan Elementary!

Thanks to the creativity and dedication of Tackan's amazing PE staff, the gymnasium has been transformed into an Olympic wonderland complete with a "bobsled competition," "ski jumping" area, curling and hockey contests.

Well done!



FROM ABC'S TO THE BOE!

This past summer, High School East senior, Alexa Lipp and High School West senior, Madelyn Donaghy, were elected to serve as non-voting, ex officio members of the SCSD Board of Education, due to their roles as student body presidents.

Earlier this month, Alexa and Madelyn returned to their elementary schools to reconnect with favorite teachers and inspire today's students.

Watch their journey [HERE](#).



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

A job posting flyer for Smithtown Central School District. The header says "WE'RE HIRING - JOIN OUR TEAM!". Below that, it lists "NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY" and "WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR" with a checkmark, and "SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF!". The flyer lists three job categories: "ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONITORS" with a rate of \$17.00 per hour, "FOOD SERVICE WORKERS" with a rate of \$17.47 per hour, and "SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDES" with a rate of \$20.75 per hour. It includes a QR code and a link 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

BOE HONORS FAMILY HEROES

Smithtown High School East senior, Bradley Fils-Aime and his father, John, were recognized at the February 10 Smithtown Central School District Board of Education meeting for their heroic actions during last month's winter storm. The pair received official commendations and a standing ovation for their selfless act of courage in helping to rescue a father and son who had fallen through the ice at Gibbs Pond.

Service and bravery run in the Fils-Aime family. John is a lieutenant with the FDNY, and Bradley serves as a lifeguard.

"My first instinct was just to help," Bradley said. "Being a lifeguard, I know how dangerous it could be."

Superintendent Dr. Mark Secaur pointed out that Bradley's efforts exemplified a core principle of The Smithtown Promise---You Are A Difference Maker.



LUNAR NEW YEAR LEARNING

Great Hollow middle schoolers have been busy bringing the Lunar New Year to life in the library. Tuesday, February 17 was Lunar New Year, which is also known as the Chinese New Year.

To explore Chinese culture and traditions, students hand-crafted vibrant paper lanterns and hongbaos. The students inquired and learned their significance and purpose in Chinese culture. It was a fantastic few weeks of hands-on learning, creativity, collaboration, and inquiring new knowledge.

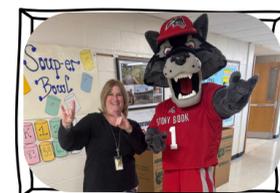
The Lunar New Year in 2026 is the Year of the Horse.



WELCOME, WOLFIE!

Mills Pond Elementary students had an awesome surprise at dismissal recently: Wolfie, the Stony Brook Seawolves mascot!

Wolfie stopped by to say hello ahead of a scheduled event the Mills Pond PTA hosted at the Seawolves men's basketball game.



SPORTS ZONE

SUFFOLK'S BEST! 🏆

Congratulations to High School East's Matthew McDermott who won the Section XI 144 lb county wrestling championship!

Kudos also go to High School West's Colten Ford and Evan Margolis for their third place finishes!



BORN TO RUN! (AND WALK)

Sophia Alvarez won the Suffolk County Large School racewalk championship after winning the 1500M racewalk with a time of 7:26.93 and qualified for the state tournament!

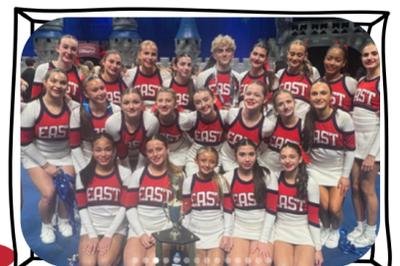
Maria Armentano, Annalisa Singer, Rayshelle Brown, and Gianna Rella set a school record in the 4x200M relay with a time of 1.50.09, finishing 3rd in the county.



THREE CHEERS FOR HSE AND WEST!

High School West Cheer placed 19th out of 77 teams in the Traditional Category at the National Competition this past week at Disney in Florida.

High School East Cheer had a 4th place finish in Traditional Routine and 8th place in Game Day Routine.



SPORTS ZONE

MAKING WAVES

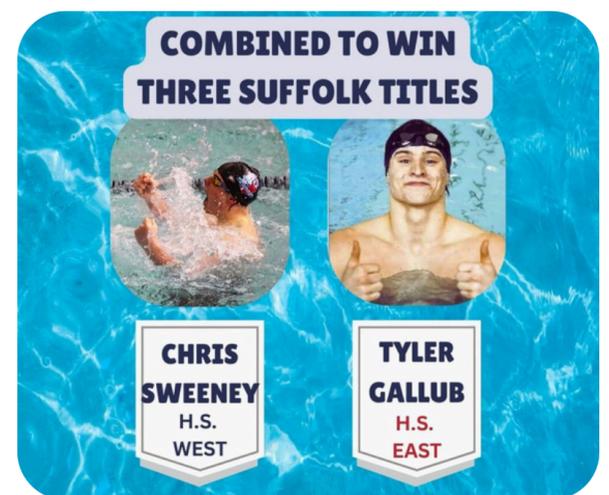
High School East senior Tyler Gallup and High School West senior, Christopher Sweeney combined to win three individual titles at the Suffolk boys swimming championships at Stony Brook University this past weekend!

The two also helped the combined Smithtown/Hauppauge team win a pair of relays.

Gallup won the 50-yard freestyle in 20.67 seconds and the 100 free in 46.03. Sweeney won the 100 breaststroke in 57.81.

The two are not only champs, but best friends!

Congratulations!



SHHH...THE WHISPERETTES SHINE!

The Smithtown West Varsity Whisperettes had a 4th place finish in the DII SV kick at UDA Nationals!

Great job, athletes, coaches and families!



MILLS POND "CARES CLUB" SCORES BIG!

Mills Pond Elementary Cares Club recently raised over \$850.00 for the American Heart Association. The club hosted a "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser where students rotated to different basketball centers and donated money to play. Club advisors Kristin Quail and Diana Lanze said "the children loved raising money for such an important cause!"

