

# SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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**MARCH 2025**





# SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the start of the Spring Season! As you may remember, this BULLETIN is an outgrowth of the district's very active Communications Committee. Our goal has been to provide effective and consistent channels of information regarding district activities and operations in order to strengthen the connection between the district and the Smithtown community. To that end, we have recently introduced a few tools to keep the community informed regarding Board of Education meetings and the Board itself. The BOE Brochure can be found [HERE](#) and it outlines the role and responsibilities of the Board, how they conduct business, and the types of meetings where this business takes place. It also includes the dates and locations of this year's meetings and contact information for the BOE.

Next, we have introduced "Board Briefs" which will be a one page source of information related to BOE meetings. This will be posted on the website and sent via email on the day after each meeting. It will include a synopsis of the BOE meeting, and links to the agenda, presentations and the video of the meeting. Our first edition can be found [HERE](#).

We hope you enjoy this month's edition!

Sincerely,  
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## REGENERON HONORS!

Congratulations to High School East senior, Jolene Cao, who recently was honored as a Regeneron finalist in Washington D.C.! Jolene was one of six Long Island high school seniors and 40 nationwide, to be named finalists in the country's most prestigious science research competition.

Cao's research project was titled, "Synthesis of Stable and Magnetically Responsive Magnetite/Cesium Lead Halide Perovskite Quantum Dots for Programmable Light Polarization."

Cao investigated perovskite quantum dots, tiny crystals at the quantum level used in the fields of energy, healthcare, and computers, that suffer from instability.

Congratulations to Jolene and Science Research Coordinator, Maria Zeitlin, for their countless hours of impressive work!



## BUILDING BRIDGES

Smithtown High School West Physics and Astronomy Club students competed in the annual Brookhaven National Lab 2025 Bridge Building Engineering Challenge. Six students designed, built and entered their bridges to withstand over 100 pounds of crushing force.

"Destruction Day" was held on March 14, 2025 at the BNL Testing Lab in Brookhaven.

The entrants from Mr. Limoli's class, from Left to Right are - Veronika Leshko (displayed by Ella Mollura), Austin Read, Sean Lee, Ryan Davidsen, Isaanth Reddy Guduru and Meneske Tolu



## MASTER PLAN AT SJE

This month at St. James Elementary School, second graders in Mrs. Collett's class studied biographies and focused on the life of Antoni Gaudi, a famous architect.

After talking about how structures are designed and built, the class had a surprise visit from Mr. Collett! Mr. Collett brought a set of plans for a home, and explained each page in detail.





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## VE FINALISTS!

Congratulations to our High School Virtual Enterprise teams, AquaTrak & AthLyte of Smithtown East & Kahuna of Smithtown West on being named finalists in this year's NYS & NE Business Plan Competition Championship Round!

Kahuna and AthLyte received the honor of being ranked in the Top 5 in New York and New England for their Marketing Plan. In addition, AthLyte ranked in the top 9 for their Finance and Human Resources Plan. Both firms will be competing in the National Competitions at the Javits Center in April. Mr. Costello is the facilitator of the Virtual Enterprise firm AthLyte and Mr. Rosa is facilitator of the firm Kahuna. Both are under the leadership of Christine LoFrese, CTE Director.

AquaTrak - HSE: Jase Heffernan, Olivia Bozzo, Hailey DeGeorge, and Evan Schickler

AthLyte - HSE : Brendan Thatcher, Emma Zodda, Michael Alartosky, and Charles Kateridge

Kahuna - HSW: Gabrielle Guttieri, Maribella Marciano, Isabella Paliwoda, and Ashlynn Renkowski



## HISTORY MAKERS AT MTP

Fourth grade students at Mt. Pleasant did a great job researching and presenting biographies about a famous person who made a historical impact.

From Abraham Lincoln and Anne Frank to Michael Jordan and Taylor Swift, students had fun while researching.

Great work!





# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## HOOPS FOR

News 12 Long Island stopped by Mills Pond Elementary School this morning to highlight fourth and fifth graders participating in Hoops for Hearts, which raised over \$800 for the American Heart Association!

Students talked to News 12 about the importance of fighting cancer, as did fourth grade teacher Kristin Quail, and fifth grade teachers Melissa Taylor and Diana Lanze, all part of the Mills Pond Cares Club!



## MERIT FINALISTS

The SCSD is proud to announce we have a total of nine Merit Scholarship finalists!

Smithtown High School West students Sierra Needham, Catalina Kreitzman, Heng Ye, Joseph Davide, and Natallie Marshall (solo picture) and Smithtown High School East students, Daanish Bassi, Jolene Cao, Neal Cusumano and Anagh Gupta are among a group of academically talented students who represent less than 1% of United States high school seniors.

Of the 15,000 finalists, there will be 6,870 Merit Scholarship winners and 710 Special Scholarship recipients, which will be announced starting in April.



## SPELLING BEE

Please join us in congratulating Accomsett Middle School 8th grader, Olivia Lipiec, who is moving on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee after a three hour regional competition!

This is the second year in a row Olivia has made it to the national competition, which will be held in the Washington, D.C. area this May.

Congratulations!!





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## GRAND OPENING!

Improved acoustics, new lighting, new seats, video monitors and a state of the art lighting system are all part of High School East's new auditorium/performing arts center!

After nearly a year of renovations, district administration, staff and students were able to see the brand new improvements for the first time.

SCSD Director of Fine Arts, Victoria Hartman, says the facility is "not just an auditorium; it's a state of the art, performing arts center that will be the hub for creativity, learning and community connection."

This was the room's first full renovation since its inception in 1959! Welcome!

## SHREK THE MUSICAL JUNIOR!

Featuring a cast and crew of over 60 students, Nesaquake Middle School put on an amazing performance of "Shrek the Musical Junior."

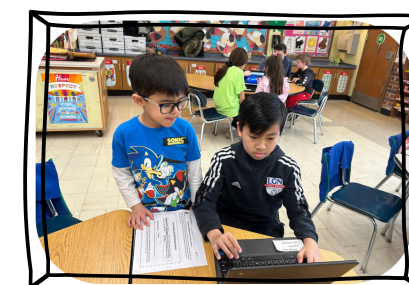
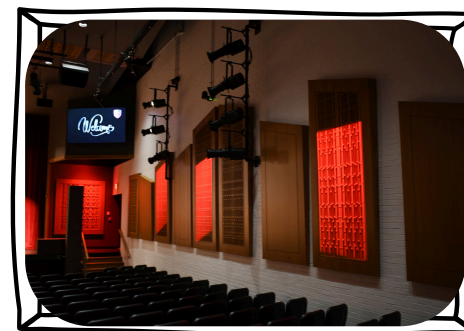
Based on the popular 2001 film, the production featured great acting, musical performances, and wonderful costumes!

Kudos to our young actors, as well as teachers Rachel Greenblatt, Jill Wagner, Jeff Trelewicz, Jennifer Fandrey, Taylor Walsh and Tim Murphy.

## CHROMEBOOK COMPANIONS

Mrs. Costa's 5th grade students at Tackan taught their kindergarten buddies how to sign into their Chromebooks and how to use Google Classroom.

"We are so very proud of our 5th grade students for being such tremendous role models and so happy to teach our kindergarten students how to be fantastic role models, as they grow at Tackan!" exclaimed Principal Furey.





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## VOLLEY FOR VAL

The Smithtown Central School District community came together to honor the memory of beloved student, Valerie Kratochvil. Students and faculty faced off in a “Volley For Val” volleyball tournament at Smithtown High School East, featuring former field hockey and track teammates of Valerie, athletes from High School West, and more.

The High School East Chamber Choir started the event with a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

East student Maggie Worontzoff addressed those in attendance, saying, Let’s play today with the same passion and spirit that Valerie had, and let’s carry her spirit with us always.”

A raffle was held with all proceeds benefitting the Kratochvil family.



## GALAPAGOS GANG!

This winter break, Mr. Tim Needles, SCSD district technology integration specialist and HS art teacher, along with chaperone Kim Williams, High School West science teacher, led a trip with 15 students from High School East and West to experience Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands!

This educational journey allowed students to immerse themselves in rich history and diverse cultures.

Mr. Needles will be leading another educational trip to South Korea and Japan in February 2026. This new adventure is now open for enrollment.

If interested click [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](mailto: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](mailto:EMPLOYMENT@SMITHTOWN.K12.NY.US)  
TO APPLY OR CALL (631) 362-2170 FOR MORE INFORMATION.





# SPORTS ZONE

## SUPER AT STATES! 🏅

It was quite the showing for our SCSD student athletes in their respective state tournaments!

In Gymnastics, High School East junior, Bayla Goldberg won the Bars State Championship!!! Bayla scored an impressive 9.775.

On the wrestling mat, East freshman Matt McDermott finished as the NYS runner up for 131 lbs and HSE senior Dylan Reinard finished 5th at 116 lbs for BOTH of them to earn All State Honors! Last but not least, East's Trishna Desai helped lead the Suffolk all-star team to the State Bowling championship! Trishna averaged a 226 at the tournament!

Well done everyone!

## WHAT A SEASON! 🏀

A super shout out to the High School West boy and girls varsity basketball teams for BOTH reaching the Suffolk County Championship games!

What an amazing season with memories to last a lifetime. You both made the SCSD proud!

## CHAMPS! 🏆

Introducing your 2025 New York State ice hockey champions, the Smithtown-Hauppauge Bulls! The Smithtown-Hauppauge Ice Hockey team is comprised of players from both the Smithtown and Hauppauge School Districts.

Congratulations!

