

# SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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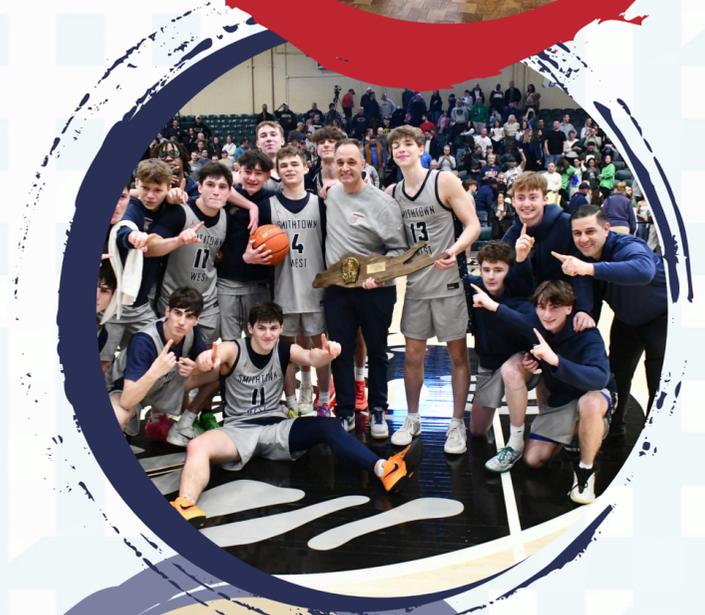
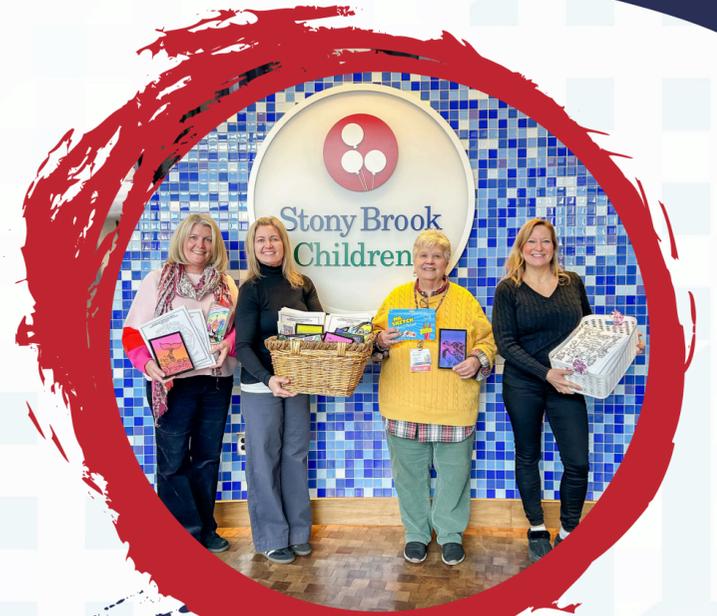
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**MARCH 2026**



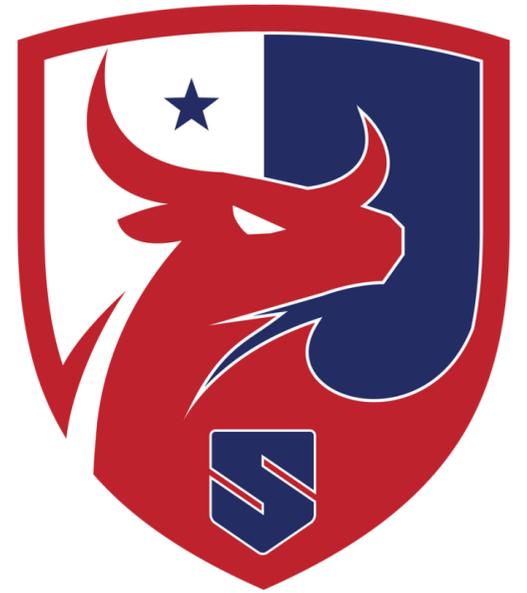
# SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

As you have likely seen on the local news or via our Budget Workshops, we are in the midst of “budget season.” As is usually the case, the Governor submits a budget proposal, and then the state Senate and Assembly submit their proposals. And if you guessed that those three entities were not on the same page, you would be correct. This is when the negotiations begin in earnest, often behind the scenes. And this is why our collective advocacy is so important, and we have called our community into action to advocate for the Smithtown Central School District.

It is essential that we all play an active role in advocating for our fair share of school aid, as well as the other recommendations outlined by the New York State Educational Conference Board. We sincerely hope that you take a few minutes to reach out to the elected officials so we can let our collective voices be heard. Details can be found [HERE](#). Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Secaur



# CURRICULUM CORNER

## LEADERS IN TRAINING

High School East and West leadership students recently took part in the Long Island Regional Student Forum held by Western Suffolk BOCES at St. Joseph's College.

Students took part in student-facilitated discussions with peers from other Long Island school districts. They shared their experiences on important issues facing schools today including, mental health, real-world learning, school environments, social media and balancing school and daily life.

It was an opportunity for student voices to be heard, and the students involved ended with a new sense of pride for themselves and are very excited to share what they have learned in Smithtown.



## WEATHER FORECAST: 100 % CHANCE OF FUN!

Students and faculty at Mills Pond Elementary were both educated and entertained during a lively visit from Emmy Award-winning meteorologist Samantha Augeri, who brought her interactive program, Sam's Weather School, to the classroom this week.

Augeri guided students through the science behind weather systems and the powerful storms they can produce, including tornadoes, hurricanes and blizzards. Augeri also brought hands-on science to life by creating a "tornado in a box" using dry ice and explored real meteorological tools, giving students a front-row seat to the science behind how weather forms.

By the end of the program, one thing was clear: the forecast for the day called for learning and excitement.



## HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

SCSD students received important Holocaust education this month.

Dr. Bernie Furshpan, the son of two Holocaust survivors, visited High School East and High School West to educate students about the Holocaust and answer questions about his parent's experience.

Dr. Furshpan told the story of how his father, age 10, the only survivor of a family of eight, managed to live in a forest in Poland for three years as the Nazis entered his village in Poland.

Additionally, Social Studies teachers Joe Toth and Jen Keller were awarded a Model Schools grant last year, which they used to bring the Spirit of Triumph organization to school. Using virtual reality technology, students took an immersive tour of Auschwitz – experiencing the grounds of the historic site in a way that would otherwise be impossible.

These programs were brought together by Director of Social Studies, Dr. Benevenuto, as part of the 10th grade social studies curriculum.

At Accomsett MS, wonderful actors from Theatre Three provided 8th graders with a powerful presentation of From The Fires: Voices of the Holocaust. The students were captivated and enjoyed asking questions at the end.



# CURRICULUM CORNER

## STORMWATER SUPERHEROES

Tackan Elementary students are officially "Stormwater Superheroes."

Cornell Cooperative Extension representative, Emily Gelardi, worked with Tackan 5th graders to learn about the local watershed and how water pollution affects local marine animals and ecosystems. Students tested water samples and used the information about the local area to determine the type and source of pollution present, along with pollution prevention techniques.



## ART FROM THE ❤️

Students from Great Hollow, Nesaquake, and Accomsett Middle School recently donated an inspiring collection of student-created artwork to Stony Brook Children's Hospital. The donation featured a wide variety of watercolor bookmarks, framed 5x7 paintings, and student-designed coloring books. Middle school artists also collaborated with Mrs. George's Digital Media Art Class at H.S. West to create intricate, student-designed mandala coloring books.

In addition to the beautiful artwork, students collected a supply of art materials for children of all ages staying at the hospital, giving them the opportunity to create masterpieces of their own.

This marks the third consecutive year that SCSD middle schools have donated artwork to Stony Brook Children's Hospital.



## LARGER THAN LIFE AT MTP

Second graders at Mt. Pleasant Elementary received a larger-than-life education this month, thanks to a 19-ft inflatable globe! Courtesy of Western Suffolk BOCES, students learned about geography and habitats from around the world! From introducing a Madagascar hissing cockroach to a bearded dragon indigenous to Australia, students had a fun, interactive, and informative time.



# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## GETTING IN ON MERIT!

The Smithtown Central School District has announced a total of seven Merit Scholarship Finalists.

Smithtown High School West students Jacob Bergman and Ishaanth Reddy Guduru, and Smithtown High School East students Madeline McCullough, Shaayan Alam, Prateek Chilakamarthy, Saquib Syed and Arnav Jain have been named finalists for the 2026 National Merit Scholarship, placing them among the top high school scholars in the country.

The National Merit Scholarship program is an academic competition that distributes more than 6,900 scholarships worth a combined total of nearly \$26 million dollars. National Merit Scholars are selected based upon a student's skills, accomplishments and potential for success in college.

"These five students represent the very best of what happens when you combine an exceptional work ethic with a rigorous academic schedule," Smithtown High School East Principal Paul McNeil exclaimed.

"The High School West community is beyond proud to celebrate Jacob and Ishaanth for being named National Merit Finalists," Smithtown High School West Principal William Holl added. "This prestigious honor puts them among the top tier of students in the country, but beyond the test scores and accolades, we know them as individuals with exceptional character who have made an immensely positive impact on our school."



## AWESOME ARTWORK AT AMS!

Congratulations to Accomsett Middle School 8th-graders Sienna Brady and Gracie Fischer, who have been selected to showcase their artwork in the annual Colors of Long Island Student Art Exhibition at the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook!

Sienna's piece, inspired by her childhood favorite film Coraline, features intricate color blending and acrylic modeling paste to create a beautifully textured, tactile work of art that truly brings her vision to life.

Gracie's vibrant portrait of her rescue dog, Skittles, cleverly incorporates playful 3D elements inspired by her pup's sweet name—resulting in a heartwarming and imaginative composition.



# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## DECA MEANS BUSINESS!

Eighty-three students from Smithtown East and West DECA received a combined 51 medals and trophies in the New York DECA State Competition this year in Rochester, New York. Eleven students from the SCSD, out of the more than 3,700 students from across the state, qualified in their competition to attend the International Career Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, at the end of April. They will be competing against all the top winners from across the globe.

The competitions included business topics such as: marketing, finance, public relations, accounting, entrepreneurship, business law and ethics, hospitality, human resources, public speaking and marketing communications.

Head to our [website](#) for a list of honor society nominees, award winners and more!



## MECHANICAL BULLS ROAR AT HOFSTRA

The Smithtown Robotics Team, The Mechanical Bulls, attended the FIRST Long Island Regional this month at Hofstra University with their robot, Rumbull. Because of their strong performance in matches, the Bulls were the fourth rank Team Captain of their alliance going into playoffs, meaning they led a group of two other teams in the playoff rounds. The team was also featured in News 12 and Newsday for their outstanding performance. The Robotics team is part of the CTE Technology Department under the direction of Christine LoFrese who is extremely proud of the dedication and hard work of the students and the advisors/mentors.



## BE A "GOOD CITIZEN" AT MTP

Mt. Pleasant Elementary has launched its Good Citizen Program. This school-wide initiative is designed to recognize and celebrate students who consistently contribute to a positive, respectful, and safe school culture. The program focuses on three core pillars: Respect for Others and Property, Personal Responsibility, and Safety and Self-Regulation.

Daily, teachers will nominate students who embody these traits.

Every Friday, one student from each grade level will be randomly picked to receive a Golden Ticket and a prize for their contribution. Additionally, all the submitted recognition slips will be joined together to create a school-wide "Link Chain" showcasing the many ways students make MTP a wonderful school.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## FROM FARM TO SMITHTOWN

Smithtown High School East and West students have a new addition to their culinary options: the Farmer's Fridge vending machine. Farmer's Fridge vending machines offer nutritious, farm-fresh meals, such as chicken wraps, Greek salads, Thai noodles, pesto pasta, chia seed pudding and more. Farmer's Fridge employees come to locations and restock their Farmer's Fridges with food sourced from local farms.

High School East and West are two of just a few high schools in New York state with these machines.

Additionally, students can indicate on the machine if they want an item that is out of stock, allowing the company's algorithm to adjust the quantity and types of options being restocked.

## A DOGGONE GOOD STORY 🐾

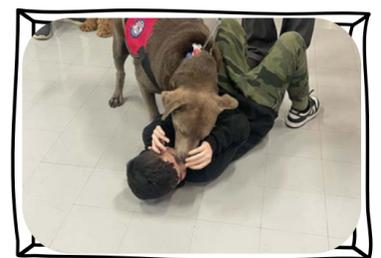
The High School East Interact Club recently turned compassion into action, hosting a dinner fundraiser that raised \$2,300 for Paws of War — a Nesconset-based nonprofit dedicated to uniting veterans, first responders and rescued animals.

Paws of War provides life-changing programs that train rescued animals to become service companions, reunite animals rescued by U.S. troops overseas, deliver veterinary care through a mobile clinic, find homes for retired military working dogs, and assist veterans with pets in securing housing.

We are so proud of our Interact students for leading with service and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served.

## 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 2.5-3 hours per day between 11:45 AM-2:15 PM  
\$17.00 per hour

**FOOD SERVICE WORKERS:**  
\$17.47 per hour

**SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDES:**  
interviews 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](mailto:employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us) or call (631) 382-2170 for more information



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ELEMENTARY MUSIC FESTIVAL IS COMING!

The Smithtown Music Department recently kicked off its new Elementary Music Festival Program and it was a smashing success!

All of the district's elementary music teachers joined more than 200 fifth-grade students from all seven elementary schools at Smithtown High School West for the first of five rehearsal sessions leading up to a special All-District concert on April 18.

The young musicians are already hard at work preparing for their big performance, and the excitement was felt throughout the room. We can't wait to hear the final result when they take the stage together on April 18!

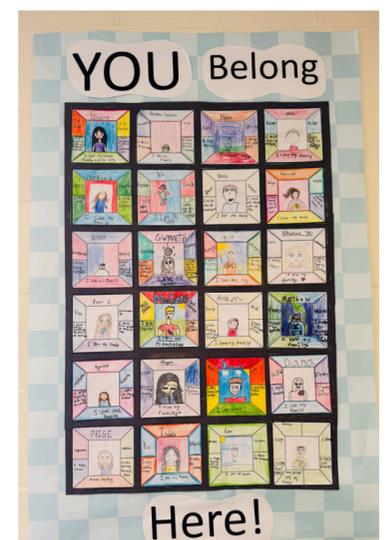


## YOU BELONG HERE

In support of the SCSD initiative, The Smithtown Promise, Dogwood Elementary fifth-grade students learned about the importance of belonging within their school and community. Students listened to the story *We're All Wonders* by R.J. Palacio. The book tells the story of a young boy who doesn't look like an ordinary kid but does many of the same things other children do.

After reading the story, students created a classroom quilt. Each student received a quilt square where they wrote about their character traits and what makes them special and unique.

The Smithtown Promise principle, "You Belong Here," teaches students that they can be authentic, they can seek new experiences, invest in relationships, and open their minds to learn about others.



## WINTER OLYMPICS!



Waving their flags high and dressed in vibrant team colors, students from Accomsett Elementary School brought energy and excitement to their Winter Olympics event at Smithtown High School West.

Hosted by physical education teacher Mr. Ed Shivokevich, the event featured a variety of fun, team-based challenges, including a hurdle race, basketball relay, and hula hoop contest. Students were grouped into multi-grade teams, encouraging collaboration, camaraderie, and school spirit across all levels.

Throughout the evening, participants showcased not only their athletic skills but also the power of teamwork and perseverance.

"Our teams are made up of multiple grade levels, so it's kids working together. It's one of my favorite nights," said Principal Tim Hellmuth.



# SPORTS ZONE

## LONG ISLAND CHAMPIONS!

Just call it the greatest season in Smithtown West basketball history! The Bulls are Long Island champions after defeating South Side in the Long Island Championship, 65-50.

Less than a week earlier, West defeated Half Hollow Hills West 98-68 in the Suffolk AA championship game at Stony Brook University for their first-ever county basketball championship!

“It’s tremendous. It’s a combination of so much hard work, so many days in practice, these guys battled all day, every day, and that’s why they are champions,” Head coach Mike Agostino said.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, and family members!



## MAKING A SPLASH AT STATES

The Smithtown-Hauppauge boys’ swimming and diving team placed second overall in the state! The boys also placed second in the 200 free relay with the second fastest time in New York State history!

Congratulations to Tyler Gallub, Christopher Sweeney, Brennan Morelli, Anthony Panchuk and Michael Catalanotto on a fantastic season.



## GO BULLS, GO!

Congratulations to our five Smithtown gymnasts, Bayla Goldberg, Amanda Burns, Cassidy Luna, Danielle Krause, Brooke Dunn, on an extraordinary performance at the NY State competition!

“To watch them compete is to witness grace, strength, precision, and grit,” said Head Coach Jessica Berroyer.

“They are some of the kindest, brightest, and hardest working young ladies. We are so proud of you!”



# SPORTS ZONE

## STRIKE!!! 🎳

Congratulations to the SCSD girls bowling team, which recently completed a **SECOND** straight undefeated season and finished second in Suffolk County overall.

The team is comprised of the following students from High School East and West: Emma Sherwood, Abby Turney, Allie Turney, Trishna Desai, Meghan Prevet, Helena Rodriguez, Skyla Genovese and Aliana Ocasio.

Additional kudos to Trishna, who placed 3rd in the State Tournament! Trishna also received the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award for Section XI.



## SUCCESS FOR SOPHIA!

High School East senior Sophia Alvarez is All-State in the 1500M Race Walk!

Sophia placed 3rd with a time of 7:21.84.

Congratulations on this amazing achievement!



## UNIFIED BOWLING TEAM BIGGER THAN EVER!

The SCSD is proud to announce the third consecutive year of its Unified Sports programs.

Due to the number of student volunteers from the Athletes Helping Athletes Clubs, as well as participation from the FAST and Special Education programs at East and West, the team has grown significantly. Head Coach Emily Fey stated that with a roster of 22 athletes, the district has reached its highest participation numbers to date.

The Unified Basketball program will also begin its inaugural year in late April, adding to the Unified program as a whole and reaching more athletes in the district than ever before.

Thank you to our athletes, volunteers and aides for making this program what it is today and what it will grow to be.

