

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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OCTOBER 2025



SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well. Happy Halloween!! I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Smithtown BULLETin*. The *BULLETin* is one of the many tools we have introduced in recent years to keep the community informed about what takes place in our schools and the district as a whole. In addition to our website and social media accounts, we have created *Board Briefs*, the *Board Brochure*, as well as infographics, videos and other tools to keep everyone up to date on important matters within the district. The *Board Briefs* serve to provide information regarding our school board meetings and it is sent to the school community the day after each meeting. The *Board Brochure* was created to help people understand the governance role of the Board within the Smithtown Central School District. Through communications such as these, we hope to keep strengthening connections with all members of the Smithtown Central School District community. It's also important to note that it's a lot of fun compiling a synopsis of all the great things our students and staff are doing within the district. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Dr. Secaur



CURRICULUM CORNER

GALAXY QUEST

If you're wondering what that makeshift project is near the athletic fields in the back of High School West, wonder no more: it's a radio telescope!

Nicholas Cardi, a sophomore at West, is collaborating on a project with NASA called Radio JOVE. It's a program that lets students, teachers, and amateur scientists build simple radio telescopes to observe natural radio emissions from Jupiter, the Sun, and our galaxy. Participants share and compare their data online, contributing to real scientific studies while learning about radio astronomy.

"I never would have built something like this, so it's kind of cool," Nicholas said. "I told Mr. Snyder that I wanted to do an astronomy-related project, and he found this one where we could build a makeshift radio telescope through the Radio JOVE program. Hopefully we're going to contribute some meaningful data to the program," Nicholas said.

"We can't do astronomy and telescope work during the school day, so this is something he could do on his own time," said Mr. Snyder. "We see the data results in the spectrograph."

Great job!

WORKING ON A DOC!

High School East and West students recently got behind the camera and prepared their best interview questions as part of an exciting new documentary. Under the guidance of English teachers Alyssa Ochrym (HSW) & Stephanie Stavrou (HSE), the students are taking part in working on a documentary project commissioned by the NFL and NFHS. (The National Federation of State High School Associations).

The students interviewed Section XI official, Carl Superina, to chat with him about his referee experience, as well as his volunteer work within the Smithtown Community.

This is a new exciting part of the English elective, Journalism.



CURRICULUM CORNER

Tornadoes at Tackan

Tackan Elementary kindergarteners are learning about different types of weather, and were able to create a tornado in a bottle! Students had a blast in their Project Lead the Way science project, as they created their very own “tornado in a bottle.”

The young scientists were amazed at how quickly the liquid transformed into a mini-tornado right before their eyes. The hands-on experiment sparked excitement and curiosity, giving students a fun way to explore science concepts while learning how natural forces work. It was a whirlwind of fun and discovery!



BLYDENBURGH STUDIES

High School West science students recently took part in an annual field study at Blydenburgh Park, documenting environmental changes along the Nissequogue River as part of their College Marine Ecology coursework.

Students conducted water quality testing and observed a variety of species, including turtles, a bald eagle, osprey, cormorant, and numerous insects. The project aims to build a growing body of data each year to help track and understand ecological changes.



APPLE-SOLUTELY DELICIOUS

Kindergarteners at Mt. Pleasant Elementary are Apple “solutely” ready for fall. Students had a great time participating in Apple Centers.

They enjoyed tasting different apples, graphing their favorite one and learned the life cycle of an apple while strengthening their fine motor skills by doing various apple activities.



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES! 🎵

The Smithtown Central School District proudly congratulates all the talented students who have been selected as NYSSMA All-State and NYSCAME All-County and SCMEA All-County Jazz!

Their dedication, hard work and passion for music have earned them this remarkable achievement and recognition among the best student musicians in Suffolk County and New York State. Students were selected based on their Spring 2025 NYSSMA Adjudication.

“We are incredibly proud of our students' accomplishments and are confident that they will represent Smithtown with distinction and pride,” said SCSD Director of Fine Arts, Victoria Hartman.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of the honored musicians.



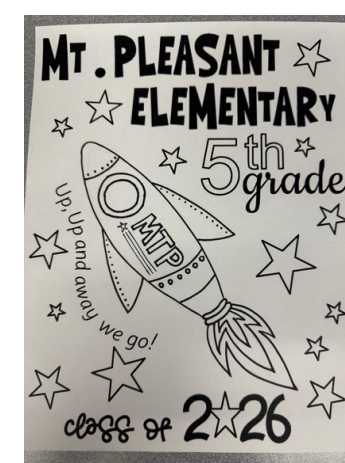
BLASTING OFF: T-SHIRT DESIGN WINNER

Congratulations to Mt. Pleasant Elementary fifth grade student Kiera Furco for winning the fifth grade Moving Up t-shirt contest!

Kiera’s “Up Up Away We Go To Great Hollow” design was voted the winner by her class.

The announcement was made by Principal Joseph Ierano at a bagel breakfast hosted by the PTA. All six finalists worked with Mt. Pleasant Art teacher, Kathleen Lindbom, on creating their drawings for the fifth grade Moving Up t-shirts. Mrs. Lindbom then refines the drawing, which will appear on the front of the shirt with students' signatures on the back!

Congratulations to Kiera and finalists, Cora Kuletsky, Layla Kranz, Landon Nassau, Maverick Cullen and Kristina Hayde.



KUDOS TO KELLER!

High School West Social Studies teacher, Jennifer Keller, has received a Fulbright Teacher Exchange award from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Keller is one of approximately 400 master teachers and administrators who participate in the Fulbright Teacher Exchanges each year. The program will provide an opportunity to expand instructional skills through immersion in new educational systems, cultures, and teaching practices.



COMMUNITY NEWS

PARENT UNIVERSITY

“It’s the fastest moving technology I’ve ever seen.”

Those were the words of SCSD Technology Integration Specialist, Tim Needles, who spoke about the emerging world of Artificial Intelligence at the district’s Parent University event.

Held at High School East, the focus of the event was on navigating Artificial Intelligence and how technology is being used responsibly in the classroom.



UNITED AT DOGWOOD!

Dogwood Elementary proudly continued its tradition of observing Unity Day on Wednesday, October, 15. This annual event aims to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion as a strategy to combat bullying.

Principal Renee Carpenter addressed the entire Dogwood student body at a school-wide Unity Day assembly, discussing the Smithtown Promise principle of "You Belong." Clad in orange, students gathered to express their solidarity, with each grade level pledging how they would embody the "You Belong" principle by being supportive peers.



WONDERFUL ON THE WHEEL!

Katie McCann, a lead service worker at St. James Elementary School, recently had the experience of a lifetime—she appeared on Wheel of Fortune! Katie's episode aired on October 7, and was filmed this past April. Katie spun her way to victory on the show!

“It’s very cool to be noticed,” Katie laughed. “People that don’t normally come to the lunchroom are now coming down, so it’s fun. Check out Katie’s appearance [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

**WE'RE HIRING - JOIN OUR TEAM!**
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR
✓ SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF!
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONITORS:
shifts are 2:25-2:55 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
SCAN QR CODE 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

“FUN RUN” A HIT AT AES

What an amazing job by the Accomsett Elementary PTA on raising more than \$30,000 for the school's cultural arts program!

The annual "Fun Run" is the school's biggest fundraiser, and this year certainly didn't disappoint.

Students laced up their sneakers, donned their school colors, and ran outside of the school as each grade took turns running laps in celebration of their success.



IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE

Think Discovery Science Research students from Smithtown High School East, coordinated by East Science Research Coordinator, Maria Zeitlin, recently returned to conduct citizen science along the Nissequogue River. Part of a multi-school collaboration with Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Central Pine Barren Commission, and the NYS DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation), this annual STEM activity takes a longitudinal look at the health of our local estuary.

Students worked in teams to collect data. "The DEC representatives were awestruck at how the kids were thriving in the natural surroundings," Zeitlin said. "They have never seen kids pick up so many crabs!"



TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP!

The Smithtown Central School District's "Green Team" worked with the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society for a beach cleanup at Sunken Meadow on Saturday, October 11.

More than 170 people came out, representing every school in the district, to help clean up the beach. The students and community members collected over 80 pounds of trash — mostly the small and easily ingested plastic pieces that are most dangerous for marine life.



SPORTS ZONE

HAPPY HOMECOMING!

A 24-yard field goal in the final seconds by Nick Strovechia gave Smithtown East a 37-34 homecoming victory over Commack! Students, families, staff and community members turned out on a beautiful, sunny Saturday evening as the Bulls pulled out the victory under the lights.

The halftime show featured performances by the varsity cheerleaders and the National Champion Whisperettes. Finally, the homecoming court took the field to announce the 2025 king and queen – Dyson Brown and Giulia Clark.



GREAT HOLLOW VS. CANCER

Great Hollow Middle School students, teachers and parents came together for a great cause and had tons of fun in the process.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the middle school held its annual Great Hollow vs Cancer event and raised over \$1,700 for the American Cancer Society and Solving Kids' Cancer.

The event, organized by Great Hollow Middle School field hockey coach Colleen McKillop, features a day for the school teams to host a game, and students and faculty are invited to watch them participate in various after-school sports. Donations came from students, teachers, staff and parents.

Thank you to all who participated!



HOLE IN ONE!

Perhaps inspired by the recent Ryder Cup on Long Island, High School West's Ryan Napolitano shot a hole-in-one vs. Hauppague on hole #7 at Smithtown Landing Club!

Congratulations, Ryan!

