

Commack High School Student Named Regeneron Scholar

The Commack School District is very proud to announce that Pragati M. was named a Scholar in the 2019 Regeneron Science Talent Search. Pragati is a senior at Commack High School, and she is one of the 300 semifinalists chosen from 1,964 students from high schools across the nation and internationally who entered the competition. The competition is sponsored by the Society for Science & The Public, which will provide a prize of \$2,000 to Pragati and an additional \$2,000 to the science research program.

"Pragati is a shining star in science research," said Alison Offerman-Celentano, Commack's Director of Science. She and her team won the Ex-MASS competition and presented at a professional astronomical conference in California. She also represented Commack at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair last May and took second place in Plant Sciences.

Pragati was excited about her win today. "There is so much that happens senior year, with college essays and my IB classes. Then, in the middle of it all, is the Regeneron STS application. The Regeneron competition means so much because it's about more than just me as a student. I felt like the application really tried to find out who I was across the academic, extra-curricular, and personal parts of my life. To be chosen as a semifinalist is so cool!"

"The science research team at Commack High School is second to none, said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Donald James. "Working alongside their teachers and mentors, our bright and motivated students spend countless hours researching and documenting their projects. We are extremely proud of Pragati and the dedicated professionals who prepare our students for rigorous competitions such as this one."

Pragati's project is titled, "Phylogenetic Analysis to Provide Insight on the Trihelix Gene Function in Arabidopsis thaliana." Knowing that plant growth and productivity is and will continue to be greatly affected by climate change, Pragati's study focused on a specific gene family with known roles in heat and drought stress. She embarked on an ambitious project to identify, classify and predict gene function in this family through



Pragati (center) is congratulated on her accomplishment by (left to right): Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Donald James; Andrea Beatty, Research Lab Assistant; Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, Director of Science; Jeanette Collette, mentor and teacher, High School Principal, Leslie Boritz; and teacher and mentor Dr. Lorraine Solomon.

a phylogenetic study (think of a tree-like drawing that shows evolutionary relationships). She discovered two particular gene pairs that are predicted to be induced by high temperatures and code for heat stress proteins. Her work could be instrumental in our quest to increase crop yields during this time of climate change.

The competition this year asked for a

student Tweet about their project. Pragati's clever Tweet: "Do you photosympathize with plants? Do you BeLEAF in Plant Science? Plant genomics are TREE-mendous fun! Check out this project that redefines functional genomics! Read about Pragati's work as she uses comparative genomics to discover new Trihelix genes and function!! #whatACORNYpun

It's BUDGET Season!



Please consider taking an active role in shaping the school budget by attending a Budget Workshop or Board of Education Meeting.

Budget Adoption & BOE Meeting	April 11, 2019	Hubbs	8 p.m.
BOE Meeting & Budget Hearing	May 9, 2019	Hubbs	8 p.m.

Budget Vote & Trustee Election

May 21, 2019 from 6:00 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Vote at Commack Middle School or Commack High School

Board of Ed Corner



On Commack Day in Albany, the District was honored on the floor of the Assembly. In photo, Commack's Legislative Advocacy Committee, joined by Assemblymen Fitzpatrick and Raia.



The Commack High School Jazz Messengers and Vocal Jazz Ensemble performed in the concourse in the Capitol for Music in our Schools Month on Commack Day in Albany.

Dear Community Members,

The last several months were very busy for your Board of Education. We finished our State of the District presentations which covered all of the various facets of the Commack School District Education system. The Legislative Advocacy Committee, which consists of board members, students, community members, and faculty members, traveled to Albany to meet with our elected officials to discuss our concerns about public school-related subjects.

Our students engaged in conversation with our officials to thank them for supporting Commack and discussed their story regarding the success of Commack. In addition, we discussed Foundation Aid and public safety matters. Overall, it was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work and preparation by all of our members of the Legislative Advocacy Committee. It was a wonderful experience to see how well-received our students were, and we can only hope that our combined voices will help to persuade our government representatives to listen and act on the matters of state aid, school safety, testing, and unfunded mandates.

In the midst of our preparations for the upcoming school budget and school board election, we would like to remind you that our budget meetings are open to the public, and also are simulcast on the Commack Website. We have all budget information posted on the website as well (www.commackschools.org/Budget.aspx), and we welcome your inquiries, suggestions, and emails.

Due to personal concerns, Board Trustee Jennifer Carpenter resigned at the March BOE meeting. On May 21, the community will vote to fill Mrs. Carpenter's position for the remainder of her term (expires June 30, 2020).

Outstanding Chemistry Teacher



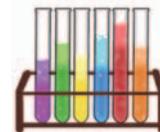
Commack Chemistry teacher, Dr. Stephanie O'Brien, won the 2018 American Chemical Society (ACS) New York Chapter Outstanding Teacher Award for "highly effective teaching and inspirational leadership to students of high school chemistry." Only one teacher in the entire state wins this award each year. She will be automatically entered into the regional competition which takes place at the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) of ACS in late May. Additionally, she can now apply for the prestigious ACS National James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching.

A rigorous process, Dr. O'Brien's application for the award included letters of recommendation from colleges, her director, a student and a parent, along with her resume, teaching credentials, lesson plans, explanations of laboratory activities, and examples of current teaching methodologies. She also sent videos to the committee to view as evidence of her style and content of teaching, which was followed up with

phone interviews. Finally, she had to show evidence that she is current in the scientific community via presentations at meetings and conferences as well as listing her community service to the chemistry community.

Dr. O'Brien is a NYS Master Teacher and has received many accolades in the recent past, including the Empire State Excellence in Teaching and the Commack Teacher of the Year awards. "I feel very fortunate to work in a district that provides its teachers with such unwavering support in implementing innovative educational strategies. The license that this district affords us to take risks enables us to continue to grow our craft as teachers," she said. Dr. O'Brien was presented with a plaque and \$2,500.

In photo to congratulate Dr. O'Brien are Commack High School Principal Leslie Boritz and Superintendent of Commack Schools, Dr. Donald James.



BOE Continued

Here are dates to remember:

- April 11, 2019 - BOE Meeting and Budget Adoption
- May 2, 2019 - Voter Registration
- May 8, 2019 - Voter Registration
- May 9, 2019 - BOE Meeting and Budget Hearing
- May 21, 2019 - Budget Vote and Trustee Election

Sincerely,
Steven Hartman
BOE President

Superintendent's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
 I'm happy we've made it through a relatively quiet winter weather-wise and I'm really looking forward to all the excitement of springtime! We started off the month traveling to Albany to meet with New York State Senators and Assemblymen to request our fair share of funding, to further our advocacy efforts, and to celebrate "Music in our Schools" month with the entire Jazz Messenger Ensemble from Commack High School performing in Albany's Capitol concourse.



We have six young men and women on the Legislative Advocacy Committee, five from our High School and one recent graduate. They spoke on behalf of the entire committee, comprised of the Superintendent, Board of Education members, Commack residents, and staff.

Focusing on what matters to our students gave our legislators a unique perspective about testing, school safety, funding, and other topics. The students framed talking points based upon our platform and delivered our message directly to the following officials: Senator James Gaughran, Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick, Deputy Secretary of Education Dan Fuller, Senator John Flanagan, and Assemblyman Andrew Raia.

The Committee and the music program were recognized on the floor of the Assembly Chambers. Speaker of the House, Carl E. Heastie, honored Commack. It was a memorable day that made each

of us #Commack Proud! Photos of the day are posted on the [Commack Website](#) and on our [Twitter](#) feed.

I hope you will take an active role as we develop a fiscally sound 2019-2020 school budget that supports student academic growth, social and emotional development, and student success. More information will be mailed and posted in the coming months. Remember that our meetings are open to the public and are also broadcast on our website.

I hope to see you at one of the concerts, athletic events or community meetings in the coming months. Thank you for your support of our students and our schools!

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald James
 Superintendent
 Commack Schools
djames@commackschools.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Hubbs Administrative Center

Meetings are Simulcast on the Commack Website

Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 8:00 p.m.*
 Meeting and Budget Adoption

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 - 8:00 a.m.
 BOCES Vote Only

May 9, 2019 - 8:00 p.m.*
 Meeting and Budget Hearing

*The Board will convene at 6:30 p.m. and is expected to adjourn into Executive Session. Public meetings will commence at times stated above.

Family STEAM Day

April 13, 2019 - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Commack Middle School

Spring Recess - Schools Closed

April 19-26, 2019

Click the Community Events link on the Commack Website for more events
www.commackschools.org

Follow us on Twitter: @Commack Schools
 and on Instagram: @CommackSD
 Follow Dr. James on Instagram:
 @commack_supt

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR



The Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program (UPK) is fully funded by a New York State grant. The application is posted on the Commack Website. There are a limited number of openings based upon the amount of grant money Commack receives from the State. The UPK half-day program meets five days per week during the school year at local preschools.

Students must be four years old on or before December 1, 2019, to be eligible to attend UPK in the fall of 2019.

Students are selected utilizing a lottery system to ensure that all applicants have an equal opportunity for participation. A numerical waiting list is maintained. In the event of availability, families will be notified in the order in which their number was chosen.

National Recognition for Sophomore "Just Around the Corner"



Ellie (Elliana) F. was recognized with a Gold Key Artist award for her photograph "Just Around the Corner" by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. The Alliance identifies students in grades 7-12 with exceptional artistic and literary talent and presents their "remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards." Students can earn scholarships or possibly have their work exhibited.

Ellie is a sophomore in Robert Raeihle's photography class at Commack High School. He said, "Ellie exhibits a sophisticated vision, her camera becomes the window through which she sees beauty and simplicity in a busy sometimes chaotic world." Her winning photo was taken in Florida with a little assistance from her brother, on a family vacation.

In photo with Ellie are Rob Raeihle, Lead Art Teacher, and Paul R. Infante, Director of Fine and Applied Arts.

Presidential Scholar Candidate



Gabriel C., a senior at Commack High School, was named as a 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Candidate. He is one of 4,500 candidates selected from the nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate this year.

Inclusion in the program is "one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in community and school activities."

After review by a distinguished panel of educators, 600 semifinalists will be chosen and finalists will be announced in May. Scholars will be invited to Washington DC in June to receive the honors. We hope Gabriel will be among them!

Congratulating Gabe are (left to right): Superintendent Dr. Donald James, Guidance Counselor Donald Graham, Director of Guidance Nicole Kregler, and Principal Leslie Boritz.

H I G H O N O R S



North Ridge Crayon Initiative



More than a half-million pounds of crayons are discarded annually throughout the U.S. That equates to roughly 60 million crayons! North Ridge, under the guidance of Mrs. Esposito, Mrs. Lally, and Mrs. Nichols, has teamed up with the Crayon Initiative to collect used and unwanted crayons. This has been an ongoing collection since June of last year.

Once the crayons are sent to The Crayon Initiative, they are melted down and re-manufactured, reducing environmental waste. Better yet, the recycled crayons are



distributed to art programs at children's hospitals across the U.S., brightening the lives of young patients during their stay.

The students at North Ridge love helping others. They will continue collecting crayons until June of 2019. Recycling and helping others at the same time is a win-win for all involved. Please consider donating your used or broken crayons to The Crayon Initiative.

In the photo are Mrs. Lally, Mrs. Nichols, and Ms. Esposito with Mrs. DiMarco's first grade class and their beautiful crayon art projects.

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Commack Students Honored for Community Contributions

Four Commack Middle School students received Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, to recognize their outstanding volunteer service and dedication based on their academic accomplishments, character traits, volunteer work, and participation in school activities.

Athena E. and Jillian C., each consistent high-honor-roll seventh grade students, were chosen to receive Certificates of Achievement for distinguished accomplishments in volunteer service. Each student also received New York State recognition and were awarded the Prudential Spirit of Community Certificate of Excellence Award for their volunteer activities.

Athena's years of dedication and service have helped to raise over \$10,000 for the Crohn's and Colitis foundation. Over the past four years she has been tirelessly working with "Team Miou," fundraising and organizing the annual "Take Steps Walk." Athena's efforts were so impressive that she was nominated to be the spokesperson or "Shining Star" of the 2017 walk.

Jillian is a founding member of a family run group called, "Kids 4 Causes." Jillian participates in fundraisers and volunteers time to support different non-profit organizations. She and her team have raised \$5,000. Jillian was inspired by the classic starfish story, that one person, one step at a time, can make



a difference. In addition to her Certificate of Excellence, Jillian is also the recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award, presented on behalf of President Donald Trump, recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of their time in service to their communities and country.

Jordan H. and Ryan S. were selected as "Top Volunteers," and they both received a Certificate of Merit from Commack Middle School. Their work has truly been inspiring to others and has been beneficial to the greater community.

Jordan, an eighth grade National Junior Honor Society member, got involved in community service for her Bat Mitzvah project

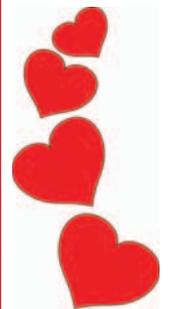
and it launched into a dedicated, continuing volunteer effort. Jordan was shocked at the price of sports equipment and wanted to make a difference to others in need. She works with a not for profit organization called "Let's Play it Forward," and has collected lightly used and new sports equipment for underprivileged children. She collected over 600 pieces of equipment, including uniforms, balls, sticks, helmets, cleats and sneakers. Jordan feels good that many underprivileged students will get the opportunity to play sports and learn important life skills, like teamwork.

Ryan is the president of the Middle School Leader's Club, an organization dedicated to community service. Ryan is

also on the Student Council Executive Board and was newly inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Ryan dedicates time out of his day, whether it is during lunch or after school; to help organize events and activities, including participating in the Thanksgiving drive, helping in our school's car wash fundraiser and assisting sixth graders transition smoothly into the middle school.

In photo, from left to right, standing: Frank Agovino, Assistant Principal at Commack Middle School; Nicole Kregler, Director of Guidance; Carrie Lipenholtz and Evelyn Cardenas, Assistant Principals; Christine Nicols, Guidance Counselor, and Michael Larson, Principal. Students seated: Ryan, Jordan, Athena and Jillian.

Best Buddies Spread the Love



Students in the Best of Buddies club at the Middle School spent their time together this month helping to spread some love. Peers and Buddies worked together to create Valentine's Day cards to send to the Pediatric Unit at Stony Brook University Hospital. Students enjoy working with their Buddies at each meeting and having fun while building positive peer relationships. Having the opportunity to do something special for others with their Buddies made the experience even more LOVE-ly!

Graduates Return to Share Their Stories and Accomplishments

Special Musical Performance at Burr



Eric Huckins, Commack alumnus, performed a horn and trumpet recital for Burr Intermediate School students and staff, arranged by his former music teacher, Michel Nadeau, who teaches at Burr.

Eric graduated from both the Curtis Institute of Music and the Julliard School and plays with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Eric also teaches private lessons on horn and trumpet to students in both Manhattan

and in the Commack area.

Eric was accompanied by his friend Gergana Haralampieva, a violinist from the Curtis Institute of Music, and Commack alumnus Daniel Malinovsky, a pianist. They played a variety of music including movie soundtracks, orchestral excerpts for horn, violin and viola tunes. Everyone enjoyed the final performance, a jam of jazz blues with Mr. Nadeau on saxophone and trombone..

Guest Appearance by Alumnus



Commack High School Global Politics students participated in a Town Hall Meeting on Modern Day Slavery with guest speaker and alumnus, Dr. Davina P. Durgana (Class of 2006). Davina is an award-winning international human rights statistician who has developed leading models to assess risk and vulnerability to modern slavery.

"Davina gave an amazing presentation on human trafficking and interacted with our students, conveying her personal experiences working with victims," said social studies teacher Charles Bauer.

Dr. Durgana is an Assistant Professor and Senior Practitioner faculty member at SIT Graduate Institute in

Washington, D.C. She serves on several expert groups for the United Nations, the Department of Justice, and the National Science Foundation. In 2015 she received the University Award for Outstanding Scholarship at the Graduate Level from American University where she received her PhD in International Relations with Distinction. She is the American Statistical Association's 2016 Statistical Advocate of the Year and a Forbes Top 30 Under 30 in Science for 2017 for her work on statistical modeling, human security theory, and human trafficking.

From left to right in photo: students Amy and Jenna, Charles Bauer, Davina, and students Greg and Spencer.

Sending Love on Valentine's Day



The third grade students in Mrs. Cestaro and Ms. Houses's classes at Burr made Valentine's Day cards and purchased games for Child Life Services at Stony Brook Hospital. The students earned money at home to donate towards the purchases and then the teachers matched the donations. They also made a basket of treats for the doctors and nurses who were very appreciative!



Future Business Leaders **Shine** at Long Island Competition

The Commack chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America participated in the annual Spring District Competition at Hofstra University, along with 350 students from all of the Nassau and Suffolk chapters. Many of the events are elimination events, and the winners move on to compete at the State Leadership Conference held at Binghamton University in April. Each category winner at the Spring District Meeting received a certificate and will also receive a plaque at the State Leadership Conference. Our 140 students within Commack's FBLA chapter have a yearning to further their learning and knowledge of business.

In addition, Commack placed first in the FBLA Coin Challenge. Many congratulations to our top fundraiser, Kyle Emmerich. All money raised went to Reading is Fundamental.



Focus on Partners in Reading:

World Read Aloud Day, Dr. Seuss' Birthday, and Read Across America

Commack's primary schools celebrated the 10th annual World Read Aloud Day on February 1, and Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 1.

Guest readers were invited into classrooms to share their favorite stories to promote reading and literacy. Exciting surprise guest readers, special events, and assemblies involved parents, students and staff.

Reading aloud helps develop literacy skills like word mastery and grammatical understanding. Those bedtime stories are also a treasured one-on-one time for our children. Please take the time to read and promote the love of literacy!



Wood Park Principal Mrs. Collison and Librarian Ms. Bronzino simulcasted their read-aloud of "The Word Collector."



Surprise reader Mrs. Helms read "Ishi" to a class at Indian Hollow on World Read Aloud Day.



Rolling Hills Principal Mrs. Santarpi read to all students in every classroom during Partners in Reading.



Principal Mr. Simpson and entire school read all together on Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day.

Sawmill Students Celebrate Health & Wellness Day

Sawmill Intermediate School held its annual Health and Wellness Day on February 27. This school-wide event teaches the students about healthy habits and encourages them to participate in various physical activities to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle.

Seventeen members of local community businesses, parents, and Sawmill staff in the health and wellness field volunteered their time to come to speak and move with our students.

Each class attended two 40-minute sessions that varied from physical activities such as yoga, martial arts, dance, and kickboxing to presentations that focused on CPR, nutrition, massage therapy, chiropractic, and many other topics.

Thanks to all of our presenters and all those who volunteered to help us put together a successful and fun-filled event!

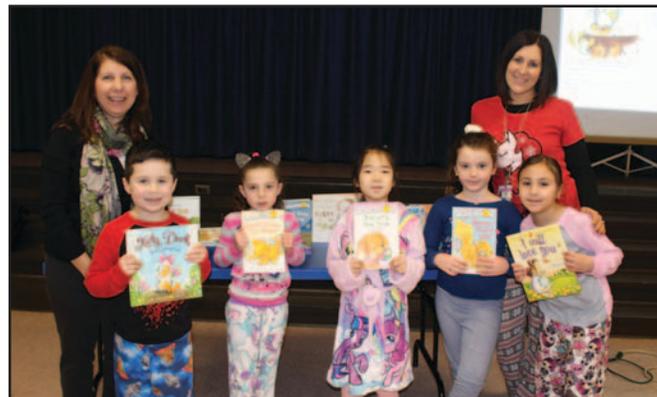


WOOD PARK'S TEACHER NINJA WARRIORS



The children at Wood Park Primary School enjoyed a month full of reading activities during the Partners in Reading initiative. The children earned "Reado" points, over 10,000, and were rewarded with an afternoon of fun cheering for their teachers as they competed in various races by grade level teams. Everyone was a winner because Wood Park loves reading!!!

Author Visit at Rolling Hills



Alyssa Satin Capucilli is the author of the "Biscuit" books, among many others. It was exciting for the children as she explained her writing process, where her ideas came from, editing, and book production.



Need a cup of coffee or tea? There's a new place in town, the 5 Star Café at Commack Middle School. It's courteous service with a smile as the students serve you while practicing their communication, counting, inventory, and safety skills each Thursday.

Miss Panos, their teacher, said, "The 5 Star Café will allow students to practice these skills in a real-world setting while also providing the staff with an afternoon pick-me-up!"

ANOTHER SOUPER BOWL WIN FOR NORTH RIDGE



The “Souper Bowl” at North Ridge Primary School in Commack broke the school record with a total of 11,795 cans and bags of soup collected for Long Island Cares. As the soup is collected, Ms. Esposito, the physical education teacher at North Ridge, sculpts the donations into different shapes. This year, she had enough soup to sculpt three different creations - a lighthouse, a pirate ship, and a cargo ship.

Each day when the children came to

gym, they were amazed at how well the sculptures were beginning to take shape and this motivated them to bring in more and more soup. Once the Souper Bowl was over, all the cans that were collected were placed in boxes and donated to Long Island Cares, which is Long Island’s First Food Bank and one of the region’s most comprehensive hunger action organizations. Long Island Cares serves individuals and families in need, and much of their success is

due to the support they receive from people like the children that attend North Ridge Primary School.

Congratulations to Mrs. Chiano’s class for winning the “Souper Bowl” by donating 3,728 cans of soup. The class received an extra day of Physical Education Safety City playtime, and in a show of good sportsmanship invited the second place team to join them and enjoy some extra playtime along with them!

Tips for Success in the Workplace - Advice from an Expert

Take a moment to look around your kitchen and in your kitchen drawers. Notice all the non-electric cooking implements. Are brand names such as Mikasa®, KitchenAid®, Farberware®, Wallace®, and Pfaltzgraff® owned by your family? If they are, there is a strong chance that the kitchen implements sold by these brands (and many other brands)

were designed, produced, and marketed by Lifetime Brands Incorporated of Garden City, a multi-national company.

The Executive Vice-President of this huge company, Mr. Bill Lazaroff, returned to the International Baccalaureate® Design Technology classes to provide another insightful conversation with the year one and year two students. Mr. Lazaroff focused his conversation on the importance of continual learning, the skill of thinking, and the



IB Design Technology students in Mr. Gargiulo’s class at Commack High School.

necessity of ‘soft-skills’ in the workplace. He emphasized the importance of students not ‘taking [their] foot off the pedal’ when it comes to learning, especially while still in high school, only the first step in a long career. He was emphatic about the importance of thinking through a problem by understanding your biases, recognizing your blind spots, comprehending the uses and limitations of statistics, and understanding the role of facts in explaining common phe-

nomena.

Mr. Lazaroff shared the premise of the “Six Thinking Hats” system developed by Edward deBono, to be able to look at problems through different lenses such as facts-only, optimism, judgment, emotion, and others. The design team at Lifetime Brands uses this methodology when developing the thousands of products they create

each year.

As for soft-skills, Mr. Lazaroff shared the contents of a poster that he proudly displays in his workplace entitled “10 Things That Require Zero Talent.” These “things” include the following: effort, energy, passion, work ethic, doing extra, being on time, body language, being prepared, can-do attitude, and being coachable. This seems like good advice for all of us, and especially helpful for these young adults.

Science Research Students Compete at JSHS



The Junior Science and Humanities Symposia (JSHS) Program is a tri-service – U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force – sponsored competition which promotes original research and experimentation in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at the high school level and publicly recognizes students for outstanding achievement. Students must apply to present their research at the first level of the fair, held at York College. This year, five of our students were selected to present their research: Kathy C., Delina L., Pragati M., Sean P., and Deniz S.

- Congratulations to:
- Kathy - 1st Place, Environmental Science "The

Development of a Machine Learning Model to Predict Tropical Cyclone Genesis from Mesoscale Convective Systems"

- Pragati - 2nd Place, Biology "Identifying Differential Expression and Conserved Alternative Splicing (AS) Events in Zea mays"
- Sean - 2nd Place, Computer Science "Receiver Noise Performance Optimization and Artificial Neural Network Based Target Localization Method for Multi-Static Passive Radar Systems"
- Delina - 2nd Place, Physics "Analyzing a Ferromagnetic-Paramagnetic Phase Transition with Machine Learning"

Toshiba ExploraVision Honors

Congratulations to Tryphena Z., Gavin C., Brianna H., and Annabelle H. for receiving an Honorable Mention for their project "NovAxon" in the National Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision competition. Only 10% of the 4,500 project entries representing over 14,000 students receive Honorable Mention.

The team's project focused on spinal cord injuries, an affliction that an average of 40 million people worldwide suffer from annually. Current treatment focuses on remedying one issue caused by the disease at a time. This inventive group's futuristic, yet realistic solution, is to develop NovAxon which would combine different practices to create an ideal treatment protocol. They envision implanting a microfluidic chip which would wirelessly send and receive data for medical personnel to track recovery.

The students could not have succeeded without the guidance and tutelage of their coach, Mr. Matthew Zito, and our lead science research teacher, Ms. Jeanette Collette. In photo with students are Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, Matthew Zito, and Principal Leslie Boritz.



Moving on to State Competition & ISEF

A number of our amazing science research students advanced to Round 2 of the highly competitive Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF). This regional competition is a feeder to the International Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by Intel. These students competed in Round 2: Pragati M., Sean P., Kathy C., Ethan S., Chapin Z., Avinash R., Kyle D., Yasemin S., and Samuel K.

Congratulations to Sean P., who won first place in Computer Science and qualified for the International Science and En-

gineering Fair (ISEF) in May! His project is "Receiver Noise Performance Optimization and Artificial Neural Network Based Target Localization Method for Multi-Static Passive Radar Systems." Sean also won the INTEL Excellence in Computer Science Award.

Pragati took third place in Cellular and Molecular Biology and Kathy took third in Earth and Environmental Science as well as the Association for Women Geoscientists Award.



Commack Girls Soccer Unites to Kick Cancer

The Commack High School Girls Soccer program, with help from the Commack High School Goal Club and the Commack Soccer League, participated in the Suffolk County Girls Soccer Coaches Association Kicks for Cancer fundraiser.

In total, the Commack contingent raised \$6,000, the second highest school total in Suffolk County. Both the JV and Varsity Girls Teams sold raffles, held bake sales, and collected donations at the Commack Soccer League (CSL) field on weekends. The Goal Club organized basket donations and a concession at the girls' annual "pink games" and the CSL sold pink soccer socks for the month of October. The proceeds were then donated to the Kicks for Cancer county-wide fundraiser. In return, our teams were allotted a portion of the proceeds, and chose to give the money to Commack Soccer League board member and cancer survivor Roseanne Simone.

Roseanne wanted to help others and give back to all who helped her through her battle with breast cancer. She chose to use



the donation to purchase blankets to be given to the chemotherapy patients at the clinic where she was treated, the Perlmutter Cancer Center in Huntington. In January, Roseanne delivered 200 blankets to the center.

Varsity Soccer Coach Tracie Morenberg said, "Roseanne's determination was the motivation behind this community ven-

ture. Through the great efforts of many, the Commack High School Girls Soccer Program knows the true meaning of "It takes a village to pay it forward."

In photo, Pat Friel, Director of Athletics (on left), Roseanne, seniors on the Varsity Girls Soccer Team, Melanie Yopp goal club representative, and Coaches Tracie Morenberg and Jack Bayer.

Rolling Hills' Little Entrepreneurs Learn By Doing



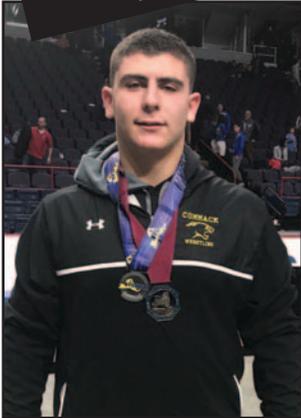
First graders in Mrs. Carillo's class at Rolling Hills had the experience of buying goods and services in their classroom to enhance the social studies economics unit.

The children all made bookmarks and beaded bracelets to "sell" on "shopping day," and earned "Carillo Cash"

for good behavior to spend. They created signs for their stores or businesses and sold their handmade wares. Some groups provided other services such as desk scrubbing or organizing desks. It was a hands-on way to learn about consumerism and to go shopping with their hard-earned "cash!"



100th
Career
Wrestling
Win



An amazing season for Joey S., who won the **2019 New York State Heavy-weight Wrestling Championship**, the **Section XI Championship**, and was named an **All-American**. Joey is the first Commack state champion in 38 years and the first ever blended Commack champion with a record of 46-0 this year.

All
American
Athlete



Not only the **New York State Triple Jump Champ**, Alissa B. was named an **All American Athlete** as one of our nation's best field and track competitors. Alissa received the **Suffolk County MVP award**, and she also set a new state record at the Ocean Breeze High School Invitational with a jump of 41' 9 3/4".

KUDOS TO...

- The Varsity Girls Bowling Team - undefeated League II Champions (12-0) for the first time in program History!
- The Track and Field Team - League 1 Champions and to athletes:
 - Dan C. - First place in the 3200 meter run & 1600 meter run
 - Vin M. - First place 600 meter run
 - Steve V. - First place shot put
 - Nick P. - All State Track & Field for indoor throw
- The Fencing Teams - Boys and Girls - League Champions
- Wrestling Team - League II Champions
- Boys JV Basketball - League 1 Champs
- Coach Dave Moran is the League 1 JV Basketball Coach of the Year

FAMILY STEAM DAY
APRIL 13, 2019
9 AM – 12 PM
COMMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Fine Arts, Mathematics, and Science Departments are teaming up to hold a Family S.T.E.A.M. Day for students in grades 3-6. The event will be a great opportunity to learn about the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics through engaging hands-on, discovery-based activities. Parents must accompany students! Students will be scheduled to attend 3 sessions during the morning.

All the info and registration:

<http://www.commackschools.org/FamilySTEAMDay.aspx>

Register Now For:
SUMMER 2019 COUGAR ATHLETIC CAMP
For grades 3-8

NEW!!! MOVEMENT IN THE ARTS CAMP
For grades K-2

Registration & Class Times/Offerings on the [Athletic Page](#) on the Commack Website.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Commack Union Free School District does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, age, marital status, partnership status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, sexual orientation, gender (sex), military status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status or political affiliation, and additionally does not discriminate against students on the basis of weight, gender identity, gender expression, and religious practices or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or federal non-discrimination laws in employment or its programs and activities. The District provides equal access to community and youth organizations.



Commack Courier
www.commackschools.org

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