

Intel International Science & Engineering Fair Winners!

Congratulations to Commack High School science research students Raphael Iskra, who took third place in Microbiology, and Pragati Muthukumar, who won second place in Plant Sciences and represented Commack on the world stage at the prestigious International Science and Engineering Fair. Our Commack students competed with students from all over the world, representing 70 countries and the U.S. This was Raphael's second year at ISEF, held this year in Pittsburgh, PA. You can see photos and read about their action-packed week in the daily blog on the Commack Website: <http://www.commackschools.org/isef2018.aspx>.

These students earned prestigious Intel Division Grand Awards at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair in March, qualifying them for the international com-

petition with students from around the globe.

Pragati's Plant Science project concerned the "Phylogenetic Analysis of the Trihelix Gene Family in *Arabidopsis thaliana*."

Raphael is one of the select "ISEF Alumni" that so many participants strive to be. Raphael continued pursuing his research in the Microbiology category studying "The Effects of Nitazoxanide on Bacterial Virulence Factor Assembly by the Chaperone/Usher Pathway," a continuation of a project he began two years ago.

We applaud these exceptional students and our talented teachers and mentor volunteers, who themselves are gifted and



dedicated to our students' successes.

In photo, our winners with just a few of their many teachers and mentors, from left to right: Jeanette Collette, Andrea Beatty, Dr. Lorraine Solomon, Dr. Daniel Kramer, Raphael, Richard Kurtz, Pragati, Director of Science, Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, and Principal Leslie Boritz.

Math Honors for CHS Students



Commack's Varsity Math Team was honored by the Suffolk County Math Teachers Association for their fantastic results in various competitions and math meets.

The team of Riley, William, Daniel, Anoop, Louis, and Matthew took First Place in the Suffolk County Senior High Interscholastic Math League.

Top Individual Scorers included: Riley, Raphael, Daniel, William, Anoop, Louis, Andrew, and Matthew.

The following students were honored for their top performance on the 63rd Annual SMCTA Mathematics Contest: Level III - Andrew - Third Place, Level IV - Stephan - First Place and Hyun - Fifth Place, and Riley for First Place in Level C+.

Congratulations to our math whizzes and their coach, Christina Pawlowski!

A New Principal at Rolling Hills

The Board of Education is pleased to announce the anticipated appointment of Jessica Santarpia as the new Principal at Rolling Hills Primary School. Mrs. Santarpia's extensive background in childhood literacy and reading fundamentals, as well as her strong leadership, mentoring, and curriculum development skills set her apart from all other candidates for this important position.

We wish Janet Studley, the current principal of Rolling Hills, many happy and relaxing years as she retires after 26 years as a teacher and administrator in Commack. She will be missed!

Mrs. Santarpia began her teaching career as a fifth grade teacher in the Valley Stream School District, serving in that position for five years. She then taught kindergarten for eight years, all the while continuing her own schooling and completing her Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration. Mrs. Santarpia most recently worked as an As-



sistant Principal at an elementary school in Farmingdale, a position she has held since 2013.

Superintendent Dr. Donald James, feels that "Mrs. Santarpia will be an asset for our students and staff at Rolling Hills. After an extensive search and interview process by a committee of administrators, staff, and parents, we are confident that we chose a highly-qualified, childhood educator and professional that has all the characteristics we embrace as a District, and most importantly, the ability to encourage a love of learning in our youngest students."

2018 IB DIPLOMA CANDIDATES



The 107 seniors pictured above celebrated their success as Commack High School's 2018 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Candidates at a ceremony that highlighted their accomplishments. The ceremony featured student speeches and performances showcasing their diverse abilities and expansive knowledge in various subject areas.

The IB Program is an internationally

recognized curriculum that offers 11th and 12th grade students the opportunity to earn an IB Diploma. The program helps students develop analytical and critical thinking skills, learn time management skills, and explore new ideas and cultures in this global community. Students actively participate in school and community activities as they take a demanding academic curriculum, with coursework at the most challenging aca-

ademic levels.

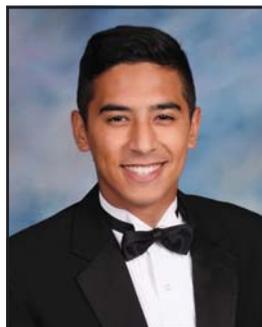
Any student may decide to pursue the IB Diploma Program offered in grades 11 and 12, or may take individual IB courses as upperclassmen. Commack High School also offers an array of other college-level classes such as Advanced Placement, Project Lead The Way engineering and computer science classes, and other courses associated with colleges and universities.

Commack High School's Top Cohort Group

Congratulations to the Class of 2018! The 80 seniors on this page and the following pages have distinguished themselves by achieving weighted averages in excess of 100%, qualifying them for membership in the A++ cohort group. Many of these students have received full or partial scholarships to attend college, and have already earned college credits by participating in college level, International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced Placement (AP) courses taken at Commack High School.



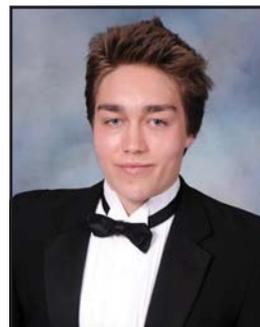
Stephanie Afonso
SUNY Geneseo



Aaron Angeles
Binghamton University



Ariana Arato
Binghamton University



Keith Bannerman
Stony Brook University



Paulina Buchta
University of Michigan

Commack High School.... Class of 2018 Top Cohort Group....



Isabella Cavallo
Binghamton University



Alyssa Cicalo
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Matthew Ciurleo
Harvard University



Alexandra Cocchiarelli
Providence College



Megan Coconato
Fordham University



Cassandra Considine
James Madison University



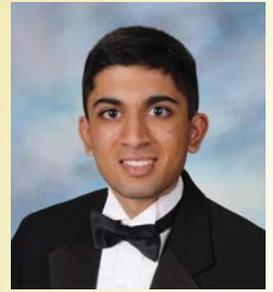
Thomas Conway
Stony Brook University



Salvatore D'Aurio
SUNY Plattsburgh



Matthew Damiata
Binghamton University



Jay Dayal
University of Michigan



Michael Delmonaco
Northeastern University



Nicole Drosch
SUNY College at Oneonta



Talia DuBois
University of Delaware



Jake Dylan
School of Visual Arts



Sophia Fabrizio
Binghamton University



Arianna Falletta
SUNY College at Geneseo



Samantha Friedman
The Ohio State University



Valerie Furlong
Wake Forest University



Julie Gupta
Washington University in St. Louis



Casey Hearn
Brown University



Siena Hohne
Georgetown University



Alex Horowitz
Brown University



Raphael Iskra
University of Pennsylvania



Sean Keenan
Marion Military Institute



Julia Kester
Pace University NYC

Commack High School.... Class of 2018 Top Cohort Group....



Anna Kolanovic
Stony Brook University



Kathleen Kuhl
Providence College



Sarah LaPrele
James Madison University



Nicole LaReddola
Case Western Reserve University



Daniel Lee
Columbia University



Alexa Leonardi
Binghamton University



Andrew Lin
Northeastern University



Rebecca Linnemann
University of Delaware



William Liu
University of California Los Angeles



Amanda Loo
Stony Brook University



Angelica Louris
SUNY Plattsburgh



Lauren Maldonado
University of Maryland College Park



Lauren Maline
The George Washington University



Lily Manetta
Lafayette College



Marissa Marine
University of Virginia



Michael Martin
Hofstra University



Brendan McCaffrey
University of Pennsylvania



Lindsay McNicholl
Binghamton University



Robert Miller
Binghamton University



Margaret Montera
Fordham University



Nicholas Nasis
Johns Hopkins University



Jake Nieto
Brown University



Eric Nigro
Northeastern University



Austin Nistico
Binghamton University



Michele O'Kane
Pace University NYC

Commack High School... Class of 2018 Top Cohort Group...



Amanda Osman
Northeastern University



Marianna Parpas
Hofstra University



Samuel Petruzzi
University of Chicago



Amanda Pizzo
Binghamton University



Alexandra Price
Pace University
Westchester Campus



Olivia Price
Long Island University
Post



Meredith Quinan
Clemson University



Jared Reese
Syracuse University



Madison Ricciardelli
University of Delaware



Christian Riewerts
University of Virginia



Lauren Sabatino
Rochester Institute of
Technology



Cayla Schuval
Duke University



Kimberly Shalhoub
Villanova University



Anoop Singh
Brown University



Zahra Syed
St. John's University



Muzaffer Tasoglu
Carnegie Mellon
University



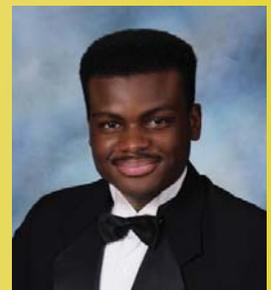
Angelina Tassone
SUNY Albany



Logan Tobias
US Coast Guard Academy



Serena Tulley
University at Buffalo
SUNY



Dono Vaughn Tulloch
Duke University



Jonathan Valsamis
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute



Emelyn Vellon
Drexel University



Nicole Vitiello
Fordham University



Kayleigh Waltal
Fordham University



Tasneem Zahran
NY Institute of Technology



There is a new designation that the New York State Department of Education made available to school districts last year, the opportunity to award the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. Open to all advanced students of World Language, it is a formal recognition of seniors who have studied and attained high proficiency in two or more languages before high school graduation. This

year, 135 Commack High School seniors earned the NYS Seal of Biliteracy.

Students must demonstrate mastery in both English and a second language, perform well on their ELA Regents and on research-based projects in their English and World Language courses to qualify. Finally, students are evaluated on their advanced communicative skills in the target language

during a lengthy interactive panel interview. Successful candidates graduate with a special seal affixed to their diplomas, and an official transcript that includes this special designation.

Pictured are Seal of Biliteracy recipients at a special recognition ceremony in their honor., along with their teachers and administrators.

2018 Scholarships for Academic Excellence



Fourteen Commack High School seniors were awarded the NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence, which provides up to \$1,500 per year for up to five years of undergraduate study in a New York State college or university. The scholarships from the NYS Education Department are based on student grades in certain Regents exams.

Congratulations to: Matthew Cieurleo, Sophia Fabrizio, Siena Hohne, Raphael Iskra, Anna Kolanovic, Nicole LaReddola, Daniel Lee, Marissa Marine, Brendan McCaffrey, Jake Nieto, Kimberly Shalhoub, Cayla Schuval, Zahra Syed, and Tasneem Zahran.

Executive Director of Instructional Services Appointed

The Commack School District is proud to announce the appointment of Jordan F. Cox to the position of Executive Director of Instructional Services, beginning July 1, 2018. Mr. Cox is an accomplished professional with an advanced understanding of the skills needed for students to succeed. He was chosen after an almost two-year-long search and interview process.

"Mr. Cox's experience in meeting the needs of students, developing curriculum, and his adeptness in data analysis and technology are just a few of the reasons he was chosen for this position," stated Dr. Donald James, Superintendent of Commack Schools. "His visionary approach and our desire to develop new and

exciting opportunities for our students will help us map the future of our Commack Schools.

Mr. Cox holds three certifications from New York State: School Building Leader, Professional School District Leader, and Physical Education, Grades K-12. He is a graduate of CW Post, Long Island University, and holds a Master's Degree and an Advanced Graduate Certificate from the State University of Stony Brook. He was previously the Executive Director for Instructional Services in Harborfields Central School District.

An avid skier on land and water, Mr. Cox lives with his family, which includes twin sons and a daughter, in West Bay Shore. "We are a boating family and love

the beach," he said. He also loves to read. "I am beyond excited to be a part of the Commack team. Throughout the entire interview process, when meeting with clerical staff, teachers, parents, administrators, and Board members, there has been an incredible sense of genuineness."



Superintendent's Message

Each year I am amazed at what our students and staff accomplish; and this year is no different! Their accomplishments and awards fill the pages of this edition, and I am inspired by the demonstration of their talents and abilities. I credit our parents, our community, and our staff for their unwavering support of our academic, athletic, and extra-curricular programs. The Board of Education and I thank each of you.



Dr. James

Beyond what we think of as the everyday activities in our schools, I am very proud of our outreach efforts in our community, the country, and around the world. Whenever there is a need, Commack knows how to come together to support our neighbors with a generosity of spirit that is unparalleled. In addition, we find ways to join together to provide humanitarian efforts, to support cancer research, to save precious resources and habitats, and to assist those who need help. We are **#CommackProud!**

Major partners in these efforts are our Commack PTAs and the many dedicated volunteers and special committee members; we cannot thank them enough for their efforts, time, and energy. These volunteers play an important role in our efforts to be proactive and address concerns, as well as to advocate and effect positive changes to benefit our students and our entire community.

As we prepare for a new school year in September, we welcome new staff members, including a new principal at Rolling Hills Primary School, Jessica Santarpia, and we bid a fond farewell to former Rolling Hills Principal, Janet Studley, and other retiring staff members. We thank them for their endless dedication to our children – they will be missed.

Know that we will continue our efforts to assure the finest, well-balanced programs for all of our students, and I wish you and your family a restful and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald James
Superintendent, Commack Schools

Free Summer Lunch Program

Children who qualify for free lunch during the school year can participate in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all eligible children free of charge. For Income Eligibility Guidelines and program locations, please go to the Lunch page on the Commack Website.

www.commackschools.org/LunchMenu.aspx

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Back to School Packets & the 2018-19 School Calendar will be posted on the website!

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Thursday, September 6, 2018

Hubbs Administration Center - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Commack High School - 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Check out our Community Events page for summer fun activities and camps for kids
www.commackschools.org

Breakfast Program Waiver

Consistent with past years, the Commack Union Free School District has applied for a waiver of the school breakfast program. This waiver was requested after a poll of primary, intermediate, and middle school parents determined that the large majority of families would not avail themselves of a breakfast program. Interested parties may address comments or suggestions to the attention of Laura A. Newman, Assistant Superintendent for Business, PO Box 150, Commack, NY 11725.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

High School Science Honors

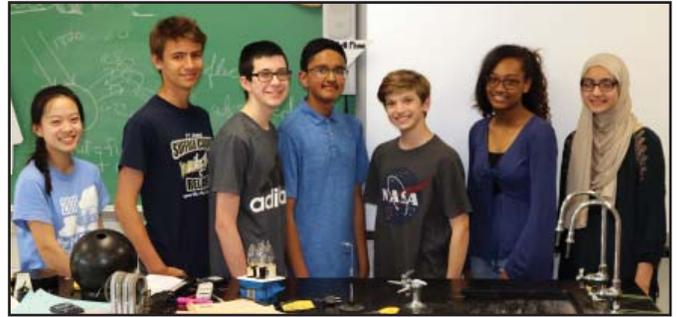
Our science research students have excelled at local, very competitive competitions this spring. At the **South Asian American Women's Alliance**, our teams took the top awards, a tremendous achievement in a competition of 60 projects.

Chapin, Jordan, and Rohan took first place in Physics for their project titled, "Can We Develop an Accurate Sample Size of the Milky Way Galaxy to Learn What Mass Function

Can Teach Us About Stellar Distance Function?"

Kristen and Daniel took second place in Chemistry for their project, "Testing the Efficiency of Different Metal Catalysts in Water Electrolysis."

Candace and Izza earned third place in Biological Sciences for their project, "Allelopathic Effects of *Fallopia japonica* Tested on Common House Plant."



Rohan, Jordan, and Chapin also competed in the **New York State Science Congress** in Buffalo after taking First Place in the **Long Island Science Congress**. The team won High Honors, the equivalent of Second Place at the State competition.

Their project title is, "Can We

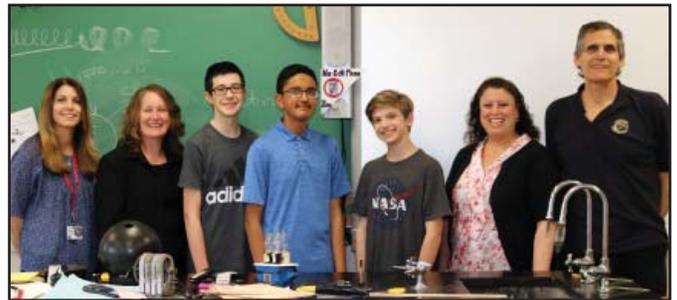
Develop an Accurate Sample Size of the Milky Way Galaxy to Learn What Mass Function Can Teach us About Stellar Distance Function?"

At the LI Congress, they also investigated the galaxy with their project, "The Correlation between Star Mass and Stellar Black Hole Distributions."

Commack High School's young researchers, all sophomores, competed in the **Kathy Belton Science Fair at Molloy College**. With over 500 projects entered, Anthony won First Honors for his project titled, "Antibubbles and the World of Phys-

ics," and so did Mikayla and Emily, for their project, "The Effect of Natural Antimicrobials on E coli."

John was awarded an Honorable Mention for his project titled, "In Silico Modification of Rubisco Against Inhibitor CA1P."



Commack High School Science Research students took home high honors at the **WAC Lighting Research Association Invitational Science Fair**, a regional competition that includes twelve of the most competitive research programs on Long Island. Sixteen of the students' projects were recognized after they presented their original work to multiple professional judges in their category, all of whom are recognized as experts in their field.

The students are successful in large part due to the hard work and tireless commitment of our incredibly talented science research team teachers and mentors: Mr. Richard Kurtz, Dr. Lorraine Solomon, Ms. Jeanette Collette, Dr. Daniel Kramer, and Mrs. Andrea Beatty.

Award winners included:

- Anoop - First Place in Earth and Environmental Science
- Gabriel - First Place in Physics and Astronomy
- Candace and Izza - The Vladimir Brezina Award for Imagination, Initiative, and Independence in Sci-

ence

- Daniel - Second Place in Computer Science and Modeling
- Victoria - Second Place in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Paige, Brian, Adam - Second Place - Prototype Engineering
- Melike, Paul, Benjamin - Second Place - Chemistry
- Raphael - Third place in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Deniz - Third Place - General Biology
- Charlson - Third Place - General Biology
- Sean and Kyle - Honorable Mention in Computer Science and Modeling
- John - Honorable Mention in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Matthew and Sean - Honorable Mention - Prototype Engineering
- Jake - Honorable Mention - Prototype Engineering
- Aria and Yeil - Honorable Mention - Prototype Engineering
- Gabi - Merit Award - Prototype Engineering

Middle School Science Honors



The Middle School Science Bowl team finished fourth out of 22 teams in the **DOE Regional Science Bowl** at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Many hours of practice and preparation precede this competition. Coach Mary Petrano and her team received a trophy for placing in such a rigorous competition. Congratulations to team members: Michael (Captain), Calvin, Ryan, Jake, and Sean.



Commack Middle School eighth grader, Michael, won First Place and Most Distinguished Categorical Project in Chemistry at the **Long Island Science Congress, Junior Division**, for his project "Development of Solar Powered Toxic Metal Cleaning Station from Water Bodies." He also won First Place at the **NYS Science Congress** in Buffalo.

David, also an eighth grade student, also took First Place at the **Long Island Science Congress, Junior Division**, and Most Distinguished Categorical Project in Physical Science for his project: "Analysis of Heavy Metal Migration Factors in Soil: In Search of Heavy Metal Pollution Remediations." He advanced to the State competition and won First Place in Physical Science at the **New York State Science & Engineering Fair, Broadcom Division**.

Congratulations to Michael and David, as well as their mentors, teachers Sean Mahoney and Joe Bisulca. In photo, from left to right: Joe Biculca, Principal Anthony Davidson, David, Michael, Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, Director of Science, Barbara Gerson, Director of Mathematics, and Sean Mahoney.



Commack Middle School's **Science Olympiad Team** competed with 31 other teams and took home medals for their projects. Congratulations to team members and coaches Alyssa DePinto and Jeanne Suttie.

Medal Winners:

- Sarah and Matthew - 2nd Place Team
- Sarah - 5th Place Individual
- Sarah, Abbey, and Lexi - 5th Place Team
- Christian and Peter - 6th Place Team
- Sally and Flora - 8th Place Team

More Middle School Honors: LI Science Congress:

- Maryum – Highest Honors and Most Distinguished Categorical Project in Biology - "Medicine and Health Antibiotics and Resistance"
- Ashley and Lakshanna – High Honors and Winner of the LI Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education Leadership Award - "Effective Wildfire Algorithms"
- Sarah – Honors - "Versatile Elimination of Airplane Vibration"



New York State Master Teacher, Jeanne Suttie was selected as the **Suffolk Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State** Middle School Teacher of the Year.

"Mrs. Suttie has been a classroom educator for 17 years and takes every opportunity to improve her craft," said Director of Science Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, "including coming to my office this year to ask for a new challenge so that she could remain fresh and current in her practice. She is the embodiment of what we hope for our students – she is a lifelong learner who continually seeks new knowledge and pedagogical approaches around every corner."

Kudos to an amazing and deserving educator, center in photo, with Dr. Offerman-Celentano and Principal Anthony Davidson.

National Merit Scholarship Winner

Raphael Iskra was named a Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship annual competition and went on to win \$2,500 scholarship.

Approximately 1.6 million students entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program, and Raphael is one of only 2,500 students chosen for this honor. "Selection Committee members review all of the Finalist applications and consider each student's academic record (including course load, rigor, depth and breadth of subjects studied, and grades earned); the student's self-descriptive essay, activities, leadership, employment, and contributions to the school and community, in addition to the high school official's letter of recommen-

datation. The Scholars selected by the Committee are those determined to have the strongest combination of attributes and accomplishments and the greatest potential for future success in college studies and beyond."

Raphael earned many accolades during his high school years, and we wish him the best as he moves on to the University of Pennsylvania this fall. In photo are Dr. Donald James, Superintendent, Commack Schools; Raphael, Leslie Boritz, Principal of Commack High School, and Amy Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Student Support Services.



Italian Poetry Contest



Each year, Commack High School students compete in the annual American Association of Teachers of Italian Poetry Contest. All eight of the students did very well in their categories:

- Level V - First Place: Angelina
Third Place: Leanne
- Level IV - First Place: James
Second Place: Deniz
Honorable Mention: Julia
- Level III - First Place: Michael
- Level II - Second Place: Grace
Honorable Mention: Olivia

**Now Accepting Nominations for
Commack's Alumni of Distinction Awards**

Information and Nomination Form
on the Commack Website

www.commack.k12.ny.us/AlumniRegistration.aspx

Broadcast Awards



Commack High School's video production students participated in the second annual Broadcast Awards for Senior High (BASH) in Southold, along with 18 other school districts from Suffolk and Nassau.

Video production teacher, William Patterson, said, "We were one of only a couple schools to have first place awards in more than one area, and we placed or won in four out of the eight awards categories. Our students created some really outstanding work. Commack's program is unquestionably at the top of the pack for video journalism on Long Island."

Commack brought home the following awards:

- 1st Place: Most Entertaining Package
- 1st Place: Best Public Service Announcement
- 2nd Place: Best Broadcast
- 3rd Place: Best Community News Package

Work-Based Learning



Commack High School's Work-Based Learning Program hosted the first annual Appreciation Brunch for all students, staff, and business representatives who participate in the job-sites program.

In the days leading up to the brunch,

the students shopped for supplies, prepped vegetables, and sliced breakfast ham for quiches. They prepared delicious desserts, such as banana pudding, brownies, chocolate cookies, and peanut butter blossoms.

Participating employers, employees,

students, job coaches, support staff, and administrators thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. Job-site mentors were also awarded recognition certificates for assisting our students as they learned job-specific tasks within their establishments.

News from Rolling Hills



Each week, the children at Rolling Hills take part in a school-wide assembly called "The Gathering," where a student from each class is recognized as a "star." The theme at each gathering changes to highlight the character trait of the month. At the final gath-

ering for this school year, the children decided it was Mrs. Studley's turn to be the star, and the whole school honored her (she is retiring). It was quite touching when children from each class explained why Mrs. Studley is a star to them.



New playground equipment and a cheerful mural at Rolling Hills will enhance play time for the students at Rolling Hills. Thanks go to the Shana Kay Foundation, the Rolling Hills PTA, Dr. Shehla Shabnam, and to the District for the funding for the playground renovation.

A ceremony was held to dedicate the new playground, attended by District administrators, Rolling Hills staff, the Kays, and PTA members. A student from each grade told the assembled crowd what the new playground means to them (photo).



Ms. Neri's class celebrated Flag Day by welcoming Mr. Mooney (Ms. Neri's dad), a veteran of the Vietnam War. Mr. Mooney discussed what the flag means to him and to all Americans.



Mrs. Gerges' first graders performed their version of "The Great Kaypok Tree," written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry. The book is about saving the animals in the rainforests.

Outstanding Musical Accomplishment

Alexandra is an outstanding fifth grade double bass player at John Mandracchia Sawmill Intermediate School. This school year she participated in SCMEA, NYSSMA, and LISFA festivals.

Alexandra was awarded a summer music scholarship from the Long Island Music Festival Association to attend the Brookhaven Music and Arts summer music program in East Setauket.

She will be taking classes in string methods, orchestra, and fiddle club.

When asked why she wanted the scholarship for the summer program Alexandra's answer was simple and straight forward, "Music makes me happy. It just does."

In photo with Alexandra are Michelle Tancredi-Zott, Principal; Paul Infante, Director of Fine and Applied Arts, and Bonnie Foti, Orchestra Director.



A Burr Student Chases Her Star

Sofie is a ten year-old fifth grade student at Burr Intermediate School. She is also the lyricist and composer of the song "Just Chase Your Star." Her song was performed by Mrs. Dank's Fifth Grade Chorus during this year's Spring Concert at Burr.

Sofie has been singing and playing piano since she was two years old. She was inspired to write "Just Chase Your Star" by her parents' love of music, and by the movie "The Greatest Showman." Her song is about empowerment; about having the courage and confidence to be yourself, and not to let others define who you are. It is about believing in your

dreams, because if you do, "crazy things just might happen."

Mrs. Amy Dank, Burr's chorus teacher, worked with Sofie to bring this song to life through the chorus performance. Mrs. Dank and Sofie worked on the choral arrangement during their lunchtime.

A video of the performance is posted on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/e2tZSJS-v2NU> and went viral on Instagram!



Graduate's Original Composition

for High School Chamber Choir

Commack graduate (2009) Matthew Recio is a talented musician, and thanks to a grant from CHS PTA Arts in Education Committee, he was back at the High School running workshops and rehearsals to prepare for the world premier of chorale piece "These Two Very Nights." Matthew is currently hard at work on his doctorate in composition from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

The performance was a joint effort between the English Department and the Music Department. It began in January, when Matthew taught a workshop about writing lyrics for choral compositions and the idea of commissioning an original choral piece blossomed. With the help of Mr. Kevin Dineen's "Etchings" staff, poetry lyrics to accompany the musical composition were submitted by students and judged. Danielle Christian, a senior, won the contest with her submission "Bird Drenched Slumber."

Choral and Chamber Choir instructor, Wendy Frankonis, worked with the PTA and Matthew to secure funding for the proj-

ect, as well as to arrange rehearsals and every other small detail to prepare for the concert with her ICA Chamber Choir.

After months of preparation, the piece premiered on May 23, 2018, at the ICA Concert at Commack High School. A recording is available on Commack's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/CommackSchools

This is not Matthew's first collaboration with Mrs. Frankonis. In 2014, they composed, "How to Survive Vesuvius," using poetry written by a Commack Alumnus. This piece was also performed at a Spring Concert and ultimately became the winner of the 2016-2017 American Prize in Choral Composition, as well as the winner of the NOTUS Contemporary Vocal Ensemble competition and the Cincinnati Camerata competition.

"How to Survive Vesuvius" was performed internationally by the New Zealand Chamber Choir. Recently, the piece has been contracted to be published in the Dale Warland Series under G. Schirmer.



Making a Difference, One Class at a Time

Ms. Goldman's fifth grade class at Sawmill Intermediate School was visited by Alexis Alpert, a representative of The Make a Wish Foundation to accept a \$500 donation from a fundraising activity done by the students. While visiting, Ms. Alpert shared the mission of Make a Wish, some stories of wishes granted to students, and her personal story of being a Make a Wish recipient herself as a child.

As part of a school project, classes were asked to work as a team to do a good deed. Some raised money for Make a Wish Foundation, some collected, decorated, and donated notebooks to area children's hospitals, some volunteered to spend time with special needs children, some donated food and time to local food pantries and filled food orders for needy families, and some visited a nursing home to spend time with the residents.

As a result of their efforts, they were rewarded with \$500 in gift cards from John Feal of the FealGood Foundation. When deciding what to do with the gift cards, they decided to do another good deed and donated the money to two Commack families that recently experienced a tragedy in their lives. We are happy to have had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.



From Design to the Kitchen, Manufacturing a Marketable Product

If you look around your kitchen and in your kitchen drawers, you will find many brand name non-electric cooking implements. Many of these kitchen implements were designed, produced, and marketed by Lifetime Brands Incorporated of Garden City. The executive vice-president of this company, Mr. Bill Lazaroff, spoke with the International Baccalaureate Design Technology classes recently at Commack High School.

During his conversations Mr. Lazaroff shared his first-hand experiences with designing, or in some cases, re-designing a number of common kitchen implements that many people use on a daily basis in their

homes. He explained the importance of understanding the properties of raw materials in relation to creating a long-lasting product, the importance of respecting and protecting intellectual property, his thought process on designing, the company's approach for turning ideas into useful and profitable products, and the challenges associated with manufacturing and selling products internationally.

Though the use of various product samples, production drawings, and handouts, Mr. Lazaroff made the design process come alive for the students. His thoughtful and engaging presentation was well-received by the students.



Students Jack, Ethan, Jenna, and Jason study production drawings of products that made it to the stores.



Bunnies as Therapy

The relationships between animals and the people who love them are invaluable. Commack High School Cause Four Paws Club advisors Laura Revera and Andrea Goldstein arranged for students to meet and interact with therapy rabbits from Bidawee Animal Rescue.

Bidawee developed the Pet Therapy Program in 1986 to offer love and support to people in communities on Long Island. In photo are students in Daryle Eisner, Nicole Fox and Mary Hannah's class. "It was a re-

warding experience to witness the students delight in the cuddles, love, and friendship of these therapy rabbits, said Mrs. Revera. The students were encouraged to pet and hold the rabbits as the Bidawee volunteers educated our students about the rabbits' demeanor, care, and handling.

The opportunity to receive the unconditional love and acceptance of the animals provided unlimited benefits, both physically and emotionally. It was a rewarding experience for all furry and non-furry friends.

Commack's New Director of Guidance

The Commack School District is happy to announce the appointment of Nicole Kregler as the Director of Guidance. Ms. Kregler's responsibilities include managing the daily activities of the High School and Middle School guidance departments, assisting the counseling staff to assure students' needs are met, implementing new counseling programs, and assuring a smooth and successful fulfillment of graduation requirements for all of our students.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Adelphi University, Ms. Kregler went on to earn a Master of Science in School Counseling at Long Island University, and a School Building Leader and School District Leader Certification from the College of Saint Rose. Her experience as a school counselor in several high schools, most recently at George W. Hewlett High School, and her knowledge and understanding of the college application and admission process will benefit our students and counselors. Ms. Kregler is an Executive board member of the Nassau Counsel-

ors Association where she coordinates the annual Awards Ceremony and has coordinated the Spring College Expo with over 300 colleges in attendance.

"The Board of Education and I believe that Ms. Kregler's experience in preparing children for the future, along with her positive attitude, will energize our staff and our students so they can achieve their goals in the future and have a successful college experience," said Dr. Donald James, Superintendent of Commack Schools. "We want each student to know about and to avail themselves of the professionals we have on staff to help them achieve their dreams."

In her free time, Ms. Kregler loves to cook and try new foods. She is married and lives in Bellmore, where she relaxes by spending time outdoors, walking her dog, or reading a book. She is "Thrilled to join this community of successful counselors and educators, and I look forward to working with the students and families of Commack."



Nicole Kregler
Director of Guidance

Wood Park's Little Leaders



The students at Wood Park Primary School practiced the "7 Habits" throughout the year, as they learned to deal with challenges they encountered throughout their school day. By utilizing Habit #1 Be Proactive, the children learn to persevere and never give up.

The children read the story, "What Do You Do With An Idea," written by Kobi Yamada and illustrated by Mae Besom, where the main character at first almost gave up on his idea, then realized it didn't matter what others thought. It was important to embrace his idea, to let it grow, and flourish. By being proactive and believing in himself and his "idea," he was able to give himself and the world a wonderful gift.

The Character Education committee presented each class with the picture book mentioned above as part of their continuing efforts to encourage the "Little Leaders." In photo above, Principal Collison and teaching assistant Elaine Liberti accompany the second grade Little Leaders as they deliver the book of the month to each classroom. Happy reading!

The Pencils and Erasers Club



North Ridge second graders partnered with residents at The Bristol in East Northport and collected school supplies for the "Pencils & Erasers Club" to send to a school in Ghana. The second graders traveled to The Bristol to meet the founder of the club, which benefits the children attending the Joseph Catholic Primary School, located in the village of Soe in Ghana, West Africa.

Pencils & Erasers Club founder, Victoria Amoah, is a native of Ghana, currently living in Kings Park. Her father worked as a domestic for a doctor in Ghana, who paid for Victoria's education at a private school when he saw her potential to learn. She founded the Pencils and Erasers Club to give back for the opportunity that she had been given and to pay it forward.

The children at the school in Ghana had no pencils to use in school, and the residents at The Bristol, along with the families, staff, and children at North Ridge collected hundreds of pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners which Victoria, pictured above with the children, will bring to Ghana. Many thanks to Michelle Nadobny, social worker at North Ridge, for arranging this service project for the children.

A First for Commack: InvestWrite Essay Winner

Congratulations to CHS senior, Michael Parrinello, for his award winning essay in this spring's InvestWrite essay contest. Michael was the third place winner nationally and was also selected as the top submission in New York State. Michael won a laptop, trophies, and a \$150 gift card.

Michael's essay was selected out of over 5,000 submission from across the country. The topic required students to select a company that would be a great place to work and supply the reasons they chose it. Michael's essay focused on YUM Brands, the parent company of Taco Bell, KFC, and Pizza Hut.

Students were asked to provide advice to the company's current investment manager on investing in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds for the best



Michael and Mr. Plechner display the banner and trophies presented at a surprise ceremony in June.

financial results, while also protecting from risk, so the company would remain successful in the future. The final part of the essay asked the students to think about possible global events that might impact the company in the next five to ten years and what changes in expenditures or investments the company could make to thrive and survive.

The InvestWrite essay is a class project in Robert Plechner's Wall Street class, and is sponsored by the SIFMA Foundation as a partner program to their semi-annual Stock Market Game competition.

Mr. Plechner said, "This is the first time Commack has placed in the InvestWrite competition and to do so at the national level is quite the impressive accomplishment."

Team 7-2's Courtyard Rain Garden Project



Commack Middle School's courtyard just got a makeover! Team 7-2 planted a rain garden that is not only beautiful, but also beneficial. Rain gardens help preserve our clean rainwater, create a habitat for animals, and prevent local flooding and water pollution.

Before planting, Mr. Mark Cappellino from Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Education Program, visited to explain the importance of protecting our water. He then returned for a second day to help guide the students as they created a garden that would beautify the courtyard for years to come.

Every student on the team joined forces to plant

more than 65 plants and record and analyze important plant data. Students also put their artistic skills to good use and painted inspirational rocks to border the garden. This interdisciplinary event enabled all students to showcase their talents and work cooperatively with their team.

Since the day focused on themes in "The Lorax," the students wanted those ideals to translate into their garden. They placed a rock in the center of the garden similar to the one in the book which has the word, "Unless" written across it because, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not."



The Writers Studio: Author Meet and Greet

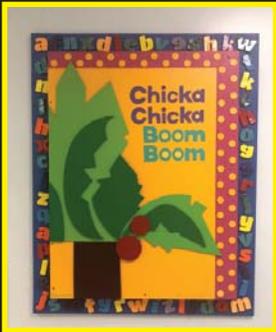
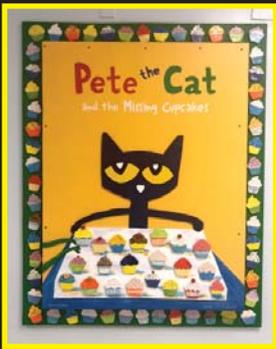
After writing, editing, and revising their stories all year, the students in The Writers Studio wanted to share their published novels with friends and teachers. Together with Ms. Rivara-Sturchio, the students planned an event in which they could host an author meet and greet and present their work to those that support and inspire them. With their bound books in hand, each author introduced his/her novel and read an excerpt from his/her piece. Every author also received a packet with information about the authors and their stories, as well as a link to continue reading the novels online. Perhaps we'll see a future best-seller!



Legacy Project at Indian Hollow

Indian Hollow second graders worked with local artist Cathy Russell and Indian Hollow art teacher MaryJo Tumminello on a Legacy Project that now adorns the kindergarten hallway.

Students worked carefully with clay letters and clay cupcakes that they cleaned, glazed, and prepared for firing to create murals based on the famous children's books "Pete the Cat," by Eric Litwin, and "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom," written by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault.



Triple "C" Awards at Commack Middle School

The Triple "C" Awards program is sponsored by the New York State Office of the Attorney General to recognize the "Character, Courage, and Commitment" of New York's hard-working students. Middle School students who have shown a tremendous dedication to learning, to their community, and to their classmates are nominated annually by their guidance counselors for this award.

Commack Middle School counselors are proud to announce the 2017-2018 recipients of the Triple "C" Awards: James, Inya, Daniella, Nick, and Jonathan.

James is a young man who is committed to his studies. He is well liked by faculty and peers. He has faced adversity in his life and has handled it with a maturity beyond his years. He accepts any challenges with courage. Many of life's transitions can test a person's character and James has truly shone through. With any personal struggle he has endured, he has emerged a stron-



ger person, and is not afraid to stand up for what he believes in.

Inaya has overcome adversity over her three years at CMS through sheer hard work and resilience. Her grades have always been outstanding, and she has always been a pleasure to work with.

Daniella has been on the track team for two years, and has made consistent progress academically and socially. Daniella has always been a good student, and this year is no exception.

Nick has become the student everyone wants to have in class. Nick is a kind and gentle soul who has his own unique take on life. Nick has weathered multiple storms at CMS and has found his groove this year.

Jonathan has come a long way in his three years at CMS. He has always been a good student, and is extremely active in the music and theatre programs. He treats

others with respect, and has matured so much.

We commend these young students on their wonderful accomplishments and give a hearty congratulations to all students who strive to make a positive difference with their courage, character, and commitment.

In photo with students are guidance counselors Christine Nicols and Jeffrey DiLorenzo.

Long Island Math Fair Winners

The Long Island Math Fair is an avenue for students who have an interest in mathematics to explore topics outside the realm of the traditional required mathematics courses. Students prepare original mathematics research papers on varied topics like Codes and Ciphers or Tessellations.



Four of our students won medals:

Paige (Grade 10) Silver Medal
 Siena (Grade 12) Silver Medal
 Jake (Grade 12) Gold Medal
 Cayla (Grade 12) Gold Medal

Carol Barbagallo, CHS Math Lead Teacher and advisor said, "The students worked very hard and presented smart, interesting papers."

In photo with students are Barbara Gerson (left), Director of Mathematics, and CHS Principal Leslie Boritz.



Summer Science Studies in Israel



Commack senior Jake Nieto will fly to Israel this summer to spend a month in the very competitive program at Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence International Summer Science Institute at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

On the Weizmann campus in Rehovot, Israel, around 3,800 scientists, graduate students, highly skilled research technicians, and staff come to work every day with the goal of solving the most challenging problems facing humankind: climate change, world hunger and malnutrition, diseases, safety and security, to name just a few. Jake is one of only 19 talented young students representing the United States among a group of 80 participants from around the world, and received a full scholar-

ship that covers the cost of transportation to and from Israel and his stay at the Institute.

During the program, "the students spend three weeks conducting research in the campus labs. The work combines the exploration of problems in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematical and computer science, and instruction in the use of sophisticated lab equipment such as electron microscopes, advanced computers, a high-energy particle accelerator, and lasers."

In photo with Jake are CHS Principal Leslie Boritz and science teacher and mentor Richard Kurtz. Jake will be attending Brown University in the fall.

Student Poems on the Buses

If you ride a HART bus, you may see poetry winners Jake and Miller's poems, which will be displayed for at least a year inside the buses in Huntington as part of the Poetry for the HART Teen Poetry Project, a Public Art Initiative program that selects poems by teen poets from Huntington schools for display in the interior advertising spaces of buses.

Out of 220 entries, tenth graders Jake and Miller penned two of the sixteen winning poems that are been printed on 11 x 24" placards, and mounted in the buses.

The winning poets were honored at an awards ceremony and reception at the Walt Whitman House. In photo with Jake and Miller are English teacher Karen Malone, and English Coordinator Charles Schulz.





Commack's Teachers of the Year 2018

Jeanne Suttie, a Commack Middle School science teacher, was named Commack's Teacher of the Year 2018 (holding flowers, center). Jeanne is a New York State Master Teacher, and she was recently named the Suffolk Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State Middle School Teacher of the Year (see page 9). She is an innovative educator who is always looking for new ways to teach and inspire her students. Congratulations to all of our nominees!

Tara Wider	Indian Hollow Primary School	Alice Marques	Commack Middle School
Patricia Lopez	North Ridge Primary School	Sonia Moronta	Commack Middle School
Nancy Carillo	Rolling Hills Primary School	Lauren Sturchio	Commack Middle School
Jennifer Flatley-Graham	Wood Park Primary School	Jeanne Suttie	Commack Middle School
Meagan Harbin	Burr Intermediate School	Jeanette Collette	Commack High School
Laurie Katz	Burr Intermediate School	Kimberly Cisek	Commack High School
Andrea Bixson	Mandracchia-Sawmill I.S.	Stacey Franzke	Commack High School
Jennifer Freck	Mandracchia-Sawmill I.S.	Justin King	Commack High School
Toni Cohn	Commack Middle School		

Within Reach! PTA Reflections

Burr students look forward to participating each year in the PTA Reflections Contest, America's oldest and largest arts education program of its kind. The program was developed in 1969 to encourage students to explore their talents and express themselves. This year, over 350 Burr students submitted entries and 80 students were recognized at a special Burr PTA Showcase for bringing this year's theme, "Within Reach!" to life through film production, dance choreography, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts.

Students pictured had their artwork submitted to the Suffolk County PTA Level of judging. Samara received a Suffolk County PTA Award of Excellence for her Dance Choreography entry, "Imagine." Allison received a NYS PTA Award of Merit for her Art entry, "Picking My Goals." The PTA Reflections committee is chaired by parents, Mrs. Borzumato and Mrs. Maciejewski.

Participation awards went to: Video: Nell; Music: Terence and Jade; Literature: Maddy and Sarah; Visual Arts: Mayah and Allison; Photography: Alex and April; and Dance Choreography: Rebecca and Samara.



CHS Alumni of Distinction Nomination Form 2018

Each year the Commack School District honors Commack alumni based on career achievements, community involvement, charitable work, etc. Nominations must be postmarked by August 17, 2018.
<http://www.commack.k12.ny.us/AlumniRegistration.aspx>

We don't want to lose touch with our former students, so feel free to register while you're on the page if you'd like to hear from us in the future!

And the Tony goes to... Commack!

Commack High School's theatrical productions won four HuntingTony Awards Ceremony this year, which honors high school performing arts productions and its participants.

Held at the John W. Engeman Theatre in Northport, Commack High School's fall production of *Our Town* won for Best Stage Crew.

The spring musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*, won three awards: Best Male Actor - Adam,

Vocalist - Samantha, and for Best Musical production.

Commack High School's actors, actresses, stage crew, and performances were recognized and applauded throughout the ceremony, giving the participants due respect for their talent and dedication.

Months of hard work go into perfecting these Broadway to Commack stage productions, which are widely enjoyed by our senior citizens, community members, staff and students.



"We celebrate the achievements of the students who won last night and of all the talented students who worked so hard on both main stage productions this year,"

said Karen Malone, Musical Director. "Many thanks to teachers Wendy Frankonis, Kimberly Cisek, Frank Hansen, Amy Connor, Christina Pawlowski, Harold Cool-

ey, and William Patterson, and of course our student musicians. Each production is a group effort of huge proportions."

Discovery Chest's Treasures



Art Students' Work on Display in Huntington

Students learn to look at art with an awareness of cultural context as an essential part of their Visual Arts curriculum. "By exposing our students to the art and artifacts of other parts of the world our students become more open minded, and able to appreciate a range of styles and techniques," said CHS Lead Art Teacher Robert Ræihle. "This process informs their own growth as artists and the development of their own personal style and technique."

Thanks to a project in conjunction with the Huntington Arts Council Discovery Chest program, students in Frank

Musto and Mr. Ræihle's classes created still life art that was featured at the Arts Council Gala, and published in their newsletter, "Arts Cultural News."

The Discovery Chest contained African and Ecuadorian artifacts. The artifacts provided our students with access to unique objects with challenging color schemes, textures and shapes. Students experimented with chalk pastels and explored the techniques for making a piece with this medium. Students develop concepts through processes that are informed by skills, techniques and the objects themselves.

Summer Usdan Art Scholarship



Each year, the Commack PTA Council Arts-in-Education Committee awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a Middle School student for their exceptional talent, commitment, and experience in the performing and/or visual arts. Ana, an eighth grader, was awarded the scholarship this year, and will attend the Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts Summer Camp.

Usdan brings world-class teachers and visiting artists – actors, directors, playwrights, painters, sculptors, musicians, composers, dancers, poets and novelists – to teach and collaborate with Usdan campers

In photo above are Ana and her guidance counselor, Denise Pihlkar.

Silver Anniversary & Retirement Celebration



Marking a milestone of 25 years of service in the Commack School District, staff and family gathered in May at the Middle School for the annual Silver Anniversary celebration. This year's 16 retirees were also honored and

received a clock (not that they will need it now).

Reza Kolahifar, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, took on the role of Master of Ceremonies, assisted by the personnel department of

office staff, who decorated and took care of every detail leading to this memorable event.

Thank you to our honorees for their years of service and dedication to the children of this District.

Silver Anniversary Honorees:

Theresa Bassett, Justine Buonovolonta, Louis Cardinale, Louise Cetrangol, Jill Donnelly, Betty Hand, Susan Iannotti, Amy Mazur, Donna Mirocco, Carla Powers, and Carol Tierney.

Retirement Honorees:

Maryanne McAuley, Marsha Bank, Valerie Bifulco, David Bern-

stein, Maureen Caporuscio, Michele Dionisio, Patricia Esposito, Barbara Galacz, Carol Gallagher, Orris Graff, Mounira Hanna, Susan Iannotti, Gary Jaferis, Richard Kurtz, Debra Lindquist, Glen Matheson, James McCaughran, Jr., Barbara Palmadeso, Patricia Quigg, Peggy Regan, Kerry Reinhardt, Michael Rose, Elise Sommer, Janet Studley, and Charles Witcomb.

Celebration of Success – 2018



Commack SEPTA and Commack High School's Special Services Department honored selectively chosen students at the annual Celebration of Success ceremony. The event recognizes the accomplishments of students that are not necessarily academic in nature, and based upon integrity, per-

severance, insight, charity, care, diligence, morality, overcoming obstacles, and other milestones. These intangible successes are often overlooked.

Each staff member elected one student that they wanted to recognize and honor by personally presenting an award certificate and school spirit

items; but more importantly, by personally presenting a heartfelt statement of the student's success and why the teacher felt this student deserved to be recognized.

Commack High School and SEPTA were honored to recognize such inspirational students.

Burr Continental Science Team First in the U.S. Again!

Burr's fifth grade National Science League Team took First Place for the fourth year in a row! Four of our students achieved National Student Leader rank for perfect scores: Ishana Chadha, Mehek Sawhney, Mikaela Myer, and Nell Maciejewski.

National Science League is a component of the Continental Mathematics League, Inc. Students attend meetings, conduct experiments, and prepare for multiple choice questions that comprise each contest, based on the students' understanding of scientific processes.

The team is coached by Leah Bernstein and George Morrish. Congratulations to team members: Ronny, Emma, Ayan, Rebecca, William, Mehek, Michael, Ishana, Akarsh, Fahad, Annabelle, Andrew, Cormac, Nell, Mikaela, and Noah.



Sawmill Continental Math Team First in the U.S.



Sawmill's fifth grade Continental Math League came in first place in the nation! Edwin, in photo front and center, is a National Student Winner for the Euclidean Division Grade 5. He had perfect scores on every meet.

The team advisors are Roberta Harris and Francine Lettieri, who coach the children during the year. Team members include: Luke, James, Jeffrey, Laura, Harris, Zain, Emelia, Kaitlin, Zachary, Edwin, Manya, Jasmine, Shivani, Maria, Michael, Abigail, Isabella, Christopher, Casey, Ved, Taylor, Kayla, Vincent, Daniel, and Esther.

Tanger Grant for Classroom Eco-Spheres

Commack Middle School teacher Diane Flynn received a grant from Tanger Outlets to purchase EcoSpheres for the sixth grade life science classes.

An Eco-Sphere is an enclosed ecosystem, a self-contained and self-sustaining miniature world encased in glass. Mrs. Flynn is excited to introduce this new technology, developed by scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, into the classroom.

In photo, from left to right: Anthony Davidson, Principal; Lexy Rahim, Tanger Intern; sixth grade Life Sciences students, Nancy Larson, General Manager, Tanger Outlets; Diane Flynn, science teacher, and Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano, Director of Science.



Burr's Peer Mediators



Have you ever had a problem or a conflict with another person? At Burr Intermediate School, a select group of fifth grade students were trained as peer mediators. The purpose of peer mediation is to learn the process of communication and problem-solving to help peers solve disagreements in a peaceful way. Peer Mediators are good listeners, trustworthy, respectful, helpful, and responsible. These students expressed interest in being considered for the program by completing an application process. The REACH Community and Youth Agency conducted mediation training that took place during lunch periods for four consecutive weeks.

Peer mediators assisted students who were interested in resolving non-physical disputes. As a result of this training, peer mediators gained confidence in their ability to help themselves, while helping other students learn how to get along better. All peer mediation conflict resolution sessions are monitored by staff members. We look forward to making peer mediation another support system for all of our students at Burr Intermediate School!

Italian Accomplishments



In March, more than 5,000 students representing 21 states challenged the rigorous National Italian Exam, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian.

Congratulating the students are World Languages Coordinator, Laura Anne Weiss, and World Language teachers Grace Silva and Tracey Passamenti. The following students earned gold, silver or bronze medals in their respective categories.

Level II

Grace	Silver
Matthew	Bronze
Paul	Bronze

Level III

Michael	Gold
---------	------

Level IV

James	Bronze
-------	--------

Level V

Thomas	Bronze
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VARSITY BRAINSTORMERS TAKE FIRST PLACE IN THE REGION



Brainstormers is an academic trivia club that practices weekly and competes in monthly regional Quiz Bowl matches in the Northwest Suffolk Division. This school year, both the varsity and junior varsity teams went undefeated and were seeded second (V) and first place (JV) out of twenty schools who qualified for the final competition in the Regional Quiz Bowl.

The varsity team won first place! Advisor Katina Price said, "It was an amazing night and I am beyond proud of them all." Congratulations to our Varsity Team members: Alexandra, Cunejd, Louis, and Sam, and to our Junior Varsity Team: Raphael, Evan, Alexis, and Ethan.

PFLI ART AWARDS & JOURNAL PUBLICATION



Art students in Mr. Raiehle and Mrs. Razzano's classes were recognized at the Photographic Federation of Long Island Youth Showcase Awards Ceremony in April at the Ethical Humanist Society.

Congratulations to Jacobn for his photo, "Backbone," to Marina for "Cultural Meeting," and to Grace for "Swinging in the Rain." Grace and Marina's photos went on to the National Photographic Society of America (PSA) Youth Showcase Competition, and their work will be published in the PSA photo journal.

New York State Excellence in Teaching Award



Christina Pawlowski is congratulated by District and Commack High School administrators on her award. From left to right in photo: Eliot Lewin, Susan Shapiro, Laura Newman, Dr. Guillermo Linares, Dr. Donald James, Christina, Leslie Boritz, Amy Ryan, Michael Larson, and Matthew Keltos.

Commack High School math teacher, Christina Pawlowski, received The NY Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award. The award recognizes educational leaders (Pre-K-12) who exemplify the professional work of thousands of outstanding, progressive teachers and innovative educators striving to for excellence and success for all students. Dr. Guillermo Linares, President and CEO for New York State Higher Education, on behalf of the Governor's office, presented a "big check" and plaque at the surprise reception at the High School.

Winners are recognized and awarded with a \$5,000 stipend for their continued learning and professional endeavors. Also in attendance were administrators, colleagues, Ms. Pawlowski's family, and many of her students.

Ms. Pawlowski is an exemplary educator and a New York State Master Teacher, who has won numerous accolades, including being named Commack's Teacher of the Year and finalist status as a New York State Teacher of the Year. She coaches and judges our high school math teams, and is

a class advisor at the high school.

Superintendent of Commack Schools, Dr. Donald James, remarked, "At the ceremony today, you can just see how much Ms. Pawlowski is loved by her students, as exhibited by her IB students that attended today. It is evident that her enthusiasm for teaching has inspired her students to enjoy learning complex mathematical concepts in a truly interactive classroom environment. We are proud to have such a wonderful teacher in our District."

Reading for a Reason - Learning About Tools for the Vision-Impaired



The first grade students in Mrs. Carillo's class at Rolling Hills were visited by Miss Lisa, a representative from Helen Keller Services for the Blind. This organization provides adaptive tools and education for people with low-vision disabilities.

The first graders read books at home to earn money to donate to this very helpful group. They raised over \$250. Miss Lisa helped the children as they manipulated and interacted with Braille books, walking sticks, talking clocks, and other tools that help blind people live normal lives everyday. The students truly enjoyed learning about how Helen Keller Services for the Blind helps other, and they were very proud to donate so they could help, too!



This special tool has an alarm that tells you when the glass is full.



Miss Lisa demonstrates how to use a walking stick.

County Recognition for Music Students



Commack music students in grades five through twelve participated in the annual Long Island String Festival Association (LISFA) and Suffolk County Music Educators Association (SCMEA) All-County concerts.

Music teachers from school districts across Suffolk County nominate their students to participate. The Long Island String Festival Association and the Suffolk County Music Educators Association are county music organizations that offer students the ability to perform with students from other districts in annual All-County

Concert Festivals. The groups rehearse two to three days in preparation for the concerts.

Over 100 musicians from Commack participated in these prestigious festivals. "Once again, the students performed at their usual high level of musicianship, and we congratulate them for earning this outstanding recognition! It is a tremendous achievement to be selected, as thousands of students are nominated to participate in these well known festivals," stated Paul R. Infante, Director of Fine and Applied Arts. The photos contain many of our students who were chosen as outstanding musicians in Suffolk County.



SCMEA Grade 10



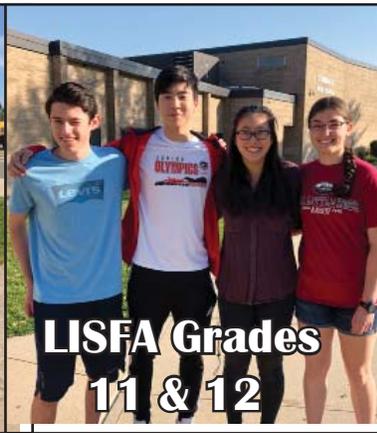
Middle School



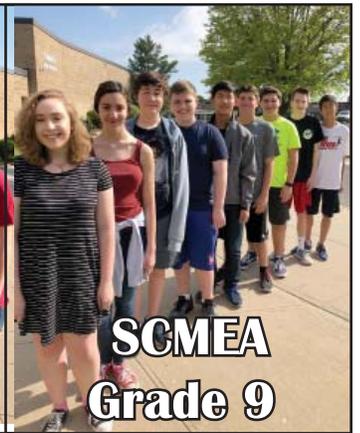
LISFA Grade 9



LISFA Grade 10



LISFA Grades 11 & 12



SCMEA Grade 9



BURR



SAWMILL

Athletic Kudos Go To...



Congratulations to Jenna, Suffolk County Freshman 400m Hurdles Champion, and Alyssa, Suffolk County Sophomore Long and Triple Jump Champion.

Valerie won the Division 1 Pentathlon at the Track and Field Individual Division 1 Championship. The 4x800 meter relay team, consisting of Howard, Roshan, Vin, and Sean, took 1st place in Division 1. Steven took first place in both shot put and discus.



Seniors Nick Guaglione and Allison Seidman received the Town of Huntington Top Male and Female Athletes Award representing Commack High School.

Commack Seniors Bobby Abshire and Lauren Maline were awarded the Butch Dellacave Award for the top Male and Female athletes in Suffolk County.

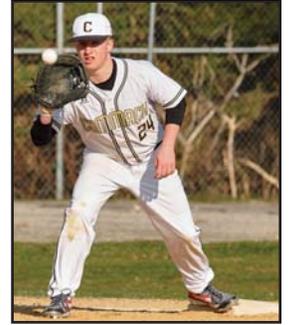


County Champs



The Girls Varsity Badminton Team won its 4th straight league title. The team finished the regular season undefeated for a second straight season with a record of 16-0.

League Champions



The Varsity Baseball Team made it all the way to the semi-finals. Jake had 14 strikeouts from the mound! The successful season finished up at 20-6.



The Girls Varsity Golf Team won the 2018 League 2 Championship, for the second year in a row. The team finished the regular season with a record of 9 wins and 1 loss.



The Boys Spring Track Team won their third consecutive League 2 Title, completing another undefeated season and keeping the winning streak alive at 23 wins.



Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Softball Team for finishing the season 17-1 and becoming League II Champions.

Commack's College Athletes



Congratulations to our graduates who are going on to play collegiate sports!
 For a full list and for all the accomplishments of our talented scholar-athletes, please visit the Athletic Page on the Commack Website:
www.commackschools.org/cougarathletics.aspx

School Record in Discus



County Shot Put and Discus Champion, Steven, qualified for the NYS Track & Field Championship where he made school history by taking the #1 spot in the State with a throw of 174' 9". He also won the NY Federation Championship with a throw of 177' 7". He also won the Suffolk County Ed Nook MVP for throwing.

In photo with Steve are Track Coaches Steve Lurie and Matthew Cardinale.

High School All American



The Board of Education recognized graduating senior and lacrosse player Robert Abshire, who earned High School All-American. Bobby was the first in school history to earn that honor. Robert will attend the United States West Point Military Academy where he will further his education and lacrosse career.

Suffolk County Tennis Champions



The Boys' Varsity Tennis Team won the Suffolk County Championship! Seniors Andrew Lin and Sol Yoon won the Suffolk County Doubles Tennis Tournament, playing against Commack seniors Ryan Schoenfeld and Alec Sydney. Coach Jimmy Delevante said, "It was an all-Commack final!"

Congratulations to Andrew and Sol, who made it all the way to the quarterfinals at States.

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.



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