



The Amityville

SUMMER 2011

TIDE

Learning Continues with Summer Enrichment



Amityville students in grades kindergarten through eight benefit from summer enrichment programs hosted at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES) during the month of July. Under the Summer English Language Arts and Math Academy, students were immersed in the System 44 phonics and Read 180 literacy improvement software programs, as well as the hands-on Everyday Math and Scholastic's FASTT Math software, which reinforce key skills that draw correlations to the real world and make learning more fun.

The district also hosted an ESL Summer Academy at PAMES in which some students learned about American culture through trips to Old Bethpage Village Restoration and studied local geography by creating maps, while others learned to dance to the twist and enjoyed other American pop culture activities. Art and crafts were also carried out on a regular basis.

Additionally, the 21st Century program continued this summer, with afternoon activities rotating within a wide variety of areas, including computers, robotics, fitness, poetry, dancing, and music history. Many other clubs and classes conducted through the 21st Century program and enrichment classes engaged and entertained youngsters during the hot summer, while keeping them sharp for the start of the new school year.

Congratulations!

Families, friends and guests honored the 196 members of the Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Class of 2011 as they marched onto Lou Howard Field in June, donning the traditional red and gray gowns to receive their diplomas and celebrate the achievements of their years in the Amityville School District and commencement of what will be many bright futures.

See Pages 4-5 inside for more on the Class of 2011, students from Edmund W. Miles Middle School and the district's three elementary schools who said goodbye to their teachers and principals as they move up to a new school this fall.



Amityville Union Free School District
150 Park Avenue
Amityville, NY 11701

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 43
Amityville, NY 11701

****ECRWSS****
Residential Postal Patron

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR *Superintendent*



Dear Amityville Residents:

I hope you are finding your summer to be both restful and enjoyable. While the

notion may be that summer is a time when students relax and spend all of their time having fun without any thought given to their studies, I can attest that this is not the case, particularly here in Amityville.

You may have already read about the summer enrichment programs that took place in our district during the month of July. As you read further into this edition of the *Tide*, you can learn about some of the events and preparations that took place at the end of the regular school year to ensure that students – and parents– were provided with materials to engage in learning throughout July and August. These include books and other activities and games to inspire them to read in between getting out

and enjoying the hot weather.

On that note, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you to monitor your children’s recreation during these extremely trying temperatures. While many of us seem to enjoy the type of conditions we have experienced this summer, dehydration and heat exhaustion can catch even the healthiest people off guard, including young children.

The summer always seems to go by fast, and before we realize it, we will be welcoming back your children. I assure you that our maintenance crews are working diligently to once again have our schools in the most pristine condition when the students return on Thursday, September 1. In addition to the maintenance department, our educators have been working the past two months to refine our curriculum and ensure that the program will not only continue to engage students, but will propel them to succeed to greater heights than in years past. While a great deal of ‘belt tightening’ was done to enable us to continue delivering a sound program at a manageable

cost for our community, I am confident that our staff and students will again get the job done and make us all proud.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the Board of Education for allowing me to continue to serve as your Superintendent for the next several years. I am proud and humbled by the opportunity to work on behalf of the children and residents of this fine community. I pledge to you that I will continue to work hard to ensure a quality education; one that equips ALL of our children with the knowledge, skills, integrity, compassion, and courage to meet and surpass the present challenges...as well as those that await them in the future.

See you in September.

Sincerely,

John R. Williams

Dr. John R. Williams
Superintendent of Schools

Honoring Service

The Amityville School District honored staff who have served the children of the district for 20 years or more with an evening of recognition prior to the end of the school year. Awards to those serving periods of 20, 25 and 30 years of service were presented, as well as those retiring this year. Congratulations to the following members of the Amityville family, who represent a cumulative total of more than 900 years of service. Thank you for your dedication:

Retirees:

Jessica Bernius
Ina Cofield
Margery Cohen Willard
Lianne Fisher
Margaret Latinski
Sharon Mendelsohn
Shelly Murphy

30 Years:

Christine D'Eredita
William Kretz
Marianne Niblock
Joyce Spencer

25 Years:

Jack Agostino
Nicola Beckles-
Brown
Gail Brooks
Barbara Dascoli
Lianne Fisher
Adeline Karniewich
Bernadette Krajlic
Shari Lynn Krauss
Alfreta Lidge
Terry Perry
Richard Romeo
Debra Ross

Jo Anne Rubin
Thomas Siegel
Donna Sohm
Gail Williams
Charles Zuar

20 Years:

Andrea Drost
Kathy Nardi
Debra McQueen
Joan Peshler
Steve Wexler
Gail Wittke



Michele Darby
Named Miles Principal



Michele Darby has been named the new principal at Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS). Ms. Darby has served as the school’s assistant principal for the last four years.

“Having been here for a while and walking the halls of the school, I feel a special connection to all of the students and staff,” said Ms. Darby. “I know the name of just about every child and have come to know many of the parents and faculty in both a professional and personal manner. I am truly excited and proud to accept this responsibility and look

forward to working together with the entire school community to build on past successes to further develop an environment supportive of achievement that educates the whole child.”

Prior to arriving in Amityville, Ms. Darby served as Assistant Principal at the Montauk Intermediate School in Borough Park, Brooklyn. She also served as a dean and teacher in the New York City school system, teaching predominantly English Language Arts, science, and social studies. When an administrator at one of her former schools informed Ms. Darby that her leadership qualities would best be utilized as a school building administrator, she realized that she could impact a larger number of students in a positive manner.

“You go from working with 125 students to several hundred in a given school year,” Ms. Darby said. “This, to me, was significant. I feel like every child at the middle school is my student and I take a special interest in every one of them.”

Ms. Darby also attributes her brother as an inspiration to her love for educating and nurturing young people, having raised him early in life following the loss of their parents.

“I want to be there for the students of Edmund W. Miles Middle School the way I have been for him. As long as I am their principal, no matter what happens in school or outside of these walls, they will never be alone...I will always have their back.”

Steven Lindenfeld, who served as Assistant Principal at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School this past year, will serve as Assistant Principal to Ms. Darby at EWMMS.

Northwest Wins National Recognition for Fighting Childhood Obesity

Northwest Elementary School is the recipient of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's prestigious Bronze National Recognition Award for its meal service and physical activity programs that exceed stringent standards. Northwest is the only school on Long Island to receive a medal from the Alliance this year.

Founded by the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program provides expert advice and free resources to more than 12,000 schools nationwide to help them reverse the national trend in childhood obesity.

According to Northwest Interim Principal Dr. Shirley Martin, the moment students arrive for school, they participate in fitness exercises that are above and beyond their regular physical education instruction and recess time. Teachers also incorporate "Brain Building" activities into their lesson plans, which encourage movement and exercise in correlation to what is being taught inside of the classroom while stimulating mental growth. More fresh fruit and healthy snacks are being served,

while fried foods are being phased out and healthy options are continually reinforced to the children.

"It's well known throughout the education community that students who have healthy bodies and healthy minds are better learners," said Dr. Martin, who traveled to the National Healthy Schools Forum in Little Rock, Arkansas to accept the award on the school's behalf. "Our goal is to win the silver medal next year, and perhaps even gold!"

Northwest's healthy culture has also resonated with staff, thanks in part to professional development, regular yoga sessions offered, and an overall attitude of healthier eating habits. Parents have also been included in the effort, as the school hosted a Family, Food and Fun Night at the end of the year, designed to promote healthy eating habits, fitness and overall wellness.

Dr. Martin thanked the entire school community, but most notably identified School Nurse Kathy Nardi, Amityville Director of Food Services Lisa Bowman, District Director of Health,



Physical Education and Nurses Tony Cerullo, and physical education teachers Brian White and Tiffany Pesale as key contributors to the success. Northwest joins 274 schools in the U.S. who received the honor.

"Everyone in the district is so proud of the recognition that Northwest Elementary School has received from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation," stated Amityville Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Williams. "Healthy schools is such an important issue today, and is in the limelight all around the country. I would like to thank Dr. Martin, Mr. Cerullo, and Ms. Bowman for all of their hard work in making this award a reality."

Amityville HS WAC PAC Honored by County Anti-Bias Task Force

The Amityville Memorial High School's Warrior Awareness Club, also known as the WAC PAC, is a recipient of the Suffolk County Executive's 2011 Anti-Bias Award for leadership in promoting social harmony. The Suffolk County Executive's Inter-Faith Anti-Bias Task Force presented the award to representatives of the WAC PAC during the agency's 10th annual Convocation and Award Breakfast held at the County Executive's office in Hauppauge in June.

The WAC PAC won the award for its participation in a peace rally at Hempstead High School, Unity Day at Suffolk Community College, the Christmas Magic Program, Have a Heart for the Homeless Awareness Weekend and Day, Peace Rock, and Amity Secret, among other events that help those in need and promote harmony. Advisor Jason McGowan leads the WAC PAC. He is pictured here with WAC PAC members, receiving their award from Task Force Co-Chairs Rev. JoAnn Barrett, Rabbi Steven Moss, and Suffolk County Director of Minority Affairs Mel Guadalupe.



Friday Morning LIGHTS... CAMERA... ACTION

Under the direction of teacher Ron Weber, approximately 11 seventh and eighth graders at Edmund W. Miles Middle School learned about television production and created their own video announcements this past year. They broadcasted these announcements on YouTube on Friday mornings during first period for their entire school to watch.

The students volunteered their free time during lunch, study hall, and after school to learn the art and technology behind television production.

The broadcasts consisted of eight to 20 weekly segments, ranging from five to 10 minutes in length, that addressed not only announcements for upcoming weeks but also reoccurring segments such as the weather, special school events, "Vocabulary Corner," "Things to Think About," and "This Month in History," among others. The goal was to reinforce and communicate topics that support English

Language Arts standards and curricular topics on social studies, science and character education, while promoting positive student behavior. Thanks to the use of a green screen, computer graphics, and some very committed correspondents, the broadcasts have a professional look and feel to them.

"What the students have done is really exceptional. This has been a really powerful and effective tool to teach important skills and address topics identified by the New York State Learning Standards as well as the Common Core ELA standards, and they absolutely love it," said Mr. Weber, who is seeking grant funding to provide additional equipment for the program for the upcoming and future years. "Kids were walking up to my classroom asking to be involved. Anyone who wanted to be involved was welcomed."

Students were even treated to a trip to News 12 Long Island studios in Woodbury, where they received a firsthand look at how a professional news network operates.

To see the EWMMS Friday Morning Videos, log onto www.youtube.com/amityvillems.

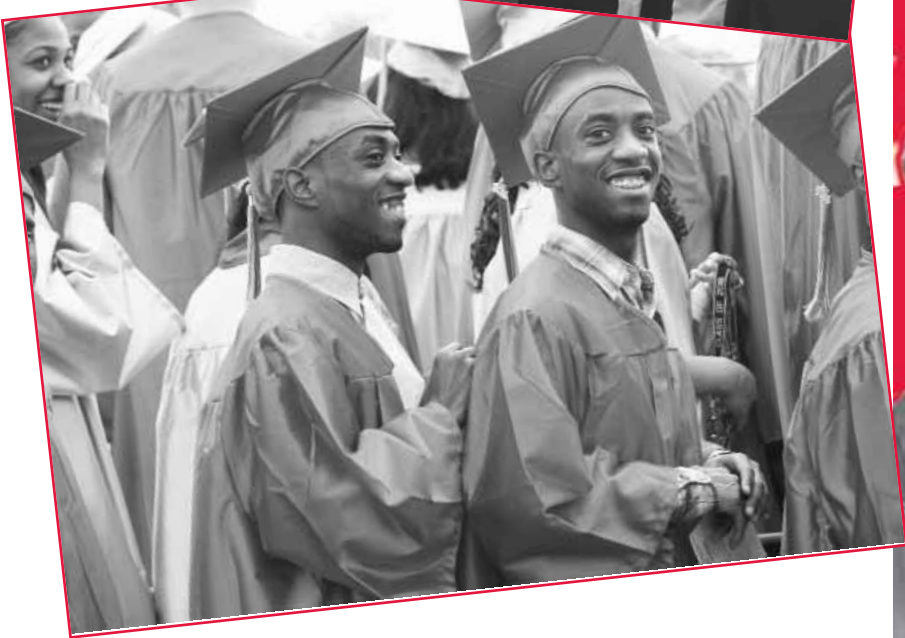




Class of 2011: A Class

AMHS Principal Dr. Scott Andrews welcomed all of the family, friends, faculty members and the work of the Class of 2011 come to its final fruition at this year's commencement exercises. "Each and every one of you has left an impression on this school community and the world. For that generosity, I thank you. I thank you for all of the ways that you have brought joy, pride and honor to the refined and dignified ways. You have made this place come alive and have sustained it." Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Williams advised the Class of 2011 to use the skills learned at Amityville schools to live a life filled with purpose and meaning worthy of respect. "Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance or choice," said Dr. Williams. "I know that this class has already made many of these life choices. Your record of volunteerism and service to others, to each other and to those less fortunate is well documented. I know what you have done. I have seen it over the last four years."

One by one, members of the Class of 2011 approached the dais to receive their diplomas and congratulations from Dr. Andrews, Dr. Williams and Board of Education President Michael Williams. Once every diploma was awarded and the class was confirmed, Dr. Andrews instructed the graduates to toss their tassels, officially declaring the Class of 2011 graduated. Caps were tossed into the air in celebration. The newest alumni of Amityville High School soon departed, equipped with the skills and values to meet the challenges that await them.



On to the Next

Senior students at Edmund W. Miles Middle School and Park Avenue elementary schools celebrated the culmination of their time at each school, the next level, next school, and next chapter of their educational journey. They received certificates of achievement, with an eye toward the day they will receive their own high school diplomas.

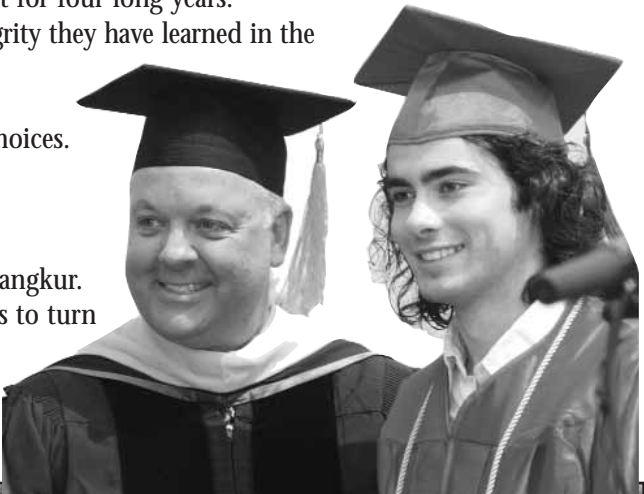


Class with Heart

bers and school officials who were present to witness the hard e. He quickly turned his attention to the graduates in waiting. efore, has left a piece of yourself [here],” said Dr. Andrews. this building to life; for all of the loud and silly ways and for all ed its spirit for four long years.” s and integrity they have learned in the

ce, but of hanging choices. ate is well

omas and hele Sikhrangkur. ed the class to turn air in h the



Next Level

venue Memorial, Northwest and Northeast ach building, respectively, as they advanced to careers. Everyone graciously accepted their l set foot on Lou Howard Field and receive their



Valedictorian: Alexandra Willenbrock

With the top academic ranking, Alexandra Willenbrock (above, right) is the Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Class of 2011 Valedictorian. Her GPA is 104.54. Alexandra has taken on leadership roles at AMHS as President of the National Honor Society and Jazz Band. She has excelled in Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses and has been called “brilliant” by her AP English teacher and Varsity Soccer Coach Christopher Roth. Her awards and recognitions span the fields of academics, music, and athletics. She was named a member of the All-League Academic Team, and played for the AMHS NYS Scholar Athlete Soccer Team; received ratings of “excellent” from NYSSMA for both jazz piano and flute; and achieved the highest averages in Spanish and forensics, as well as receiving the George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science Medal for the highest GPA in math and science as a junior. Additionally, Alexandra won the Dartmouth Book Club Award for her high scores and demonstration of intellectual and social leadership and was the recipient of a bevy of awards in various disciplines at this year’s AMHS senior awards ceremony. Compassion reigns supreme with Alexandra, who has volunteered for numerous community and school-based organizations, including Foster Parents Association, Gift of Life Foundation, Let’s Move Together (for arthritis sufferers), Babylon Rotary, St. Killian’s Swim Team, LI Yacht Club (as a “tween” counselor), and Amityville Summer Sports Camp. In addition to Soccer, she has participated in both Spring and Winter Track and JV Volleyball and Softball. Along with the Jazz Band, Alexandra is a member of the AMHS Marching Band. Other activities she is involved with include the school paper *Echo*, the World Languages Honor Society, and the Forensics Team. Alexandra will attend Penn State University, where she is expected to study biochemistry.



Salutatorian: Maressa Villa

Maressa Villa (above, left) is the Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Class of 2011 Salutatorian with a top academic ranking. Her GPA is 101.70. Combining her dedication to academics with a love for athletics, Maressa has truly molded herself into a well-rounded student. Achieving High Honor Roll as a member of the National Honor Society, Maressa was enrolled in both Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Her AP Physics teacher, Mary-Ellen Loiacono, said that “no problem or concept is beyond her grasp.” Ms. Loiacono describes Maressa as someone who excels independently and with a group, and who never lets her dedication to other activities interfere with her schoolwork. Athletically, Maressa has participated in Winter and Spring Track as well as JV Softball and Soccer. She is also an accomplished gymnast. She has captained the AMHS team for MSG Varsity’s academic quiz show “The Challenge.” Other awards and acknowledgements include the Pathfinder of the Year Award, the AATSP LI Chapter NSE Oro Award, and the denomination of Most Improved JV Soccer Player. Maressa was also a member of the National World Languages Honor Society. Maressa’s volunteerism is apparent through her work with NYC Blood Drive, the NYC Marathon, her fundraising and teaching efforts with the Pathfinder Club, and her efforts to assist with the building of a community park in Wisconsin with the Courage to Stand Camporee. Maressa will attend La Sierra University, where she is expected to study biology.



LEARNING About Life ON THE Bay

The Amityville Kiwanis Club sponsored a fishing trip for Marine Biology students attending Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) this past May. Joined by members of Kiwanis, Marine Biology teacher Marian Weber and John Ammirati led a fun-filled day of fishing on board the Taryn-Ann, which launched from nearby Captree State Park, captained by John Reilly. Students caught more than 70 fish and learned about marine life in the Great South Bay. Kiwanis provided snacks and drinks for the students.

The following day, the students were treated to a kayaking expedition across the bay to a barrier island. Jim Kohler, owner of The Dingy Shop in Amityville, sponsored this trip.

"I was so proud of the students, considering the conditions that they were paddling in!" said Ms. Weber, who thanked Mr. Kohler and Kiwanis for their support.

PAMES Students Show Their Global Spirit



In conjunction with Global Youth Service Day, students from Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School visited the United North Amityville Youth Organization and Senior Citizen Center to spruce up the surrounding area. The students planted shrubs and showed their dedication to making their community not only a better place, but also one that is beautiful.



PAMES Hosts First Spanish Spelling Bee



Congratulations to sixth grader Carlos Garza Cruz, who won Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School's (PAMES) first ever school-wide Spanish spelling bee this year. Carlos advanced to the New York State Spanish Spelling Bee held this June in New York City. The event, coordinated by PAMES ESL teacher Lisa Zomback in conjunction with Amityville ESL Director Elizabeth Reveiz, provided beginning English language learners with a forum to demonstrate their command of their native language, instilling in them a strong sense of pride and accomplishment, in addition to knowledge of spelling Spanish words. ESL teacher Lissa Varas served as the moderator for the event. PAMES students Luis Ramirez and Monica Calderon finished in second and third place, respectively.

Ensuring the Community's Health

In conjunction with Saint Francis Hospital's Community Outreach program, Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS) hosted a free health screening in June. Screenings were conducted on board the St. Francis Mobile Outreach Clinic, a large bus with the capacity to conduct blood pressure checks and simple blood tests for cholesterol, as well as diabetes screenings. Community members and staff stopped in to take advantage of the service and ensure their health. Pictured here are EWMMS Principal Michele Darby, St. Francis Registered Nurses Deirdre Capozzoli and Ruth Sorg, and EWMMS School Nurse Carol Bosch alongside the Mobile Outreach Clinic.



Prime Time Learning Rings in a Summer Filled with Activities



Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten families were invited to Northeast Elementary School for a Prime Time Learning experience that included several games and fun activities geared toward teaching literacy and math skills with a twist: a summer theme. Stations set up in the school gymnasium included a Summer Make and Taste table, complete with refreshing drinks, a seashell activity, a bug jar game, Book Flix, summer reading journals, and fun, educational websites.

Dinner was served in the cafeteria and parents were provided with materials and activities to keep their kids captivated—and most of all learning—during the summer months. The evening was highlighted by a visit from New York State Assemblyman Bob Sweeney, who read to the children on hand.



Books Come to Life

Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School welcomed the entertainers/educators from the Bodacious Books Arts-in-Education program to the school auditorium. Hosts “Bob Bookmark” and “Rita Digest” brought many classic children’s stories to life, beginning the assembly with a game show entitled “Have You Read It?” They reenacted the story of Shel Silverstein’s Jimmy Jet who never read and watched too much television, later turning into a television set. They also acted out Ogden Nash’s poem *The Adventures of Isabel* about a young girl who fends off a bear, a witch and a horrible giant among other adversities. The Bodacious presenters culminated the show with the Brothers Grimm fairy tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Students were invited onto the stage to be a part of all the acts, with the youngsters seated in the audience lending a hand with the giant beanstalk.



Penguins Go Northwest for the Summer



Students in Hilda Brown’s first-grade and Maria Cottone’s second-grade bilingual classes at Northwest Elementary School performed a short play entitled *El Pinguino Bilingue* (also known as The Bilingual Penguin), which is based on the children’s poem of the same name. Youngsters provided a sneak preview of their performance for the community at a Board of Education meeting, just days prior to performing for parents and schoolmates.

Bodies in Motion at Northeast

Under the direction of physical education teacher Robert Claps, students from Northeast Elementary School strutted their stuff for the community as they demonstrated some of the dance movements they had learned in class during a Board of Education meeting held in the spring. Dance movements are a regular part of the physical education program, as it not only improves young children’s fitness and gross motor development, but also broadens their cultural horizons and creativity.



21ST CENTURY WRAPS UP ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

The 21st Century program wrapped up another successful year in June with a barbecue cookout for participating students and their families. One of the highlights of the past year was the large Quilt of Knowledge that students created based on Myrah Brown Green's concept of quilting from the Global Village. 21st Century Program Director Ed Backus is seen here (top, right) alongside the large quilt, which is representative of the students' studies of different countries, cultures, people, and events from throughout the world to promote an understanding of the global society. The quilt is comprised of smaller quilt 'blocks' which illustrate everything from Babe Ruth to the Taj Mahal. The 21st Century program continued with an afternoon program that ran through July (see p.1 for more).



Accepting the Challenge

Student volunteers from Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) joined peers from seven other participating schools and "buddied up" with 170 special needs athletes for the sixth annual Bellmore-Merrick Challenge held at Calhoun High School.

The volunteers and their buddies took part in a series of events, including an obstacle course and standing long jump. The annual event is designed to give the special needs students a sense of pride and to develop bonds with the volunteers, while the volunteers learn firsthand that regardless of what challenges these students face, they have many similarities to which they can relate. Teachers Rebecca DePaolo and Jennifer Trotman were instrumental in coordinating the AMHS volunteers.



A Field *Of Their Own*

Prior to the end of the school year, elementary schools in the district welcomed the warm weather by conducting their respective field days. At each school, various stations were designed to provide young students with an opportunity to participate in different sports-minded activities in a fun and spirited manner. In many cases, parents volunteered their time to help supervise stations, while others simply stopped by to cheer their children on through the many activities that promoted exercise and sportsmanship. Pictured here, students from Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School enjoy the activities, including the opportunity to dunk their teachers and Principal Scott Bullis.



Athletes *Honored*

Amityville Memorial High School honored its student athletes during its Spring Sports Awards ceremony. MVP awards were presented to Corey Carter (Varsity Boys Track), Daneen Small (Girls Varsity Track), Brian Kretz (Varsity Baseball), Jasmine Belizaire (JV Softball), Yaneth Rodriguez (JV Softball), O'Neil Armstrong (JV Baseball) and DeShaun Bayne (JV Boys Tennis). Coaches Award plaques were also handed out, as well as for the Most Improved Players on each squad. Congratulations to all of the award winners and Amityville student athletes overall for giving their all – on and off the field.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michele Sikhrangkur, President
Juliet Jordon-Thompson, First Vice President
Lisa Johnson, Second Vice President

Mark Epps Trustee
Nathan King, Trustee
Ronald Moss, Trustee
Kathleen Ward, Trustee

Dr. John R. Williams, Superintendent of Schools

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 151
Massapequa, NY 11758