



*The Amityville*

WINTER 2011

**TIDE**

## Amityville TV Launches

There's something special on the Internet every morning that homerooms in Amityville Memorial High School are tuned in to. It's Amityville Television!

Students are logging onto YouTube to watch a daily video broadcast created by a group of students who meet every day after school. The Amityville TV club, directed by technology/video production teacher Steve Carbo, produces a daily three-minute news segment which is posted for viewing the following day.

Nearly every Amityville TV broadcast begins with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a "Pretty Good News" segment, which can consist of announcements (many submitted by teachers) and other topics of concern to students including fundraisers, school activities, and schedules. You can also find feature segments on students, teachers and even athletic updates – which sometimes include video footage from games. The anchorperson often infuses comedy into the broadcast.

Students in the Amityville TV club work together in a fun, collaborative environment. They begin each afternoon by selecting topics for their broadcast, then they script each segment. Copy is then displayed on a large monitor (teleprompter style) as an anchor sits under the lights in front of a green screen that projects an image of a news desk and news set on television. While this is happening, other students are directing, manning the



cameras, managing the sound quality, or video/audio editing and importing the various supplemental graphics, footage, and features, before each segment undergoes final production.

Since the beginning of the school year, a regular group of students participate in Amityville TV. Many of them plan to pursue careers in the visual, audio or digital arts and much of the on-screen talent are either involved in the drama club or aspire to act or grace the front of the camera in the future.

"I'm thrilled we were given the opportunity to start such a unique, intensive program. The hands-on experience gained and creativity of our crew really can be measured by their excitement I see when they arrive in this studio," said Mr. Carbo. "I believe this also helps to create a stronger sense of community and pride within the school among all of our students."

Mr. Carbo also teaches how to create short video segments, commercials, and public service announcements in his regular class. Students enrolled in his class do not necessarily cross over into Amityville TV club, which is always accepting new members who are willing to learn and take the production seriously.



*Members of the Amityville TV Crew: Scott Archer, Alfie the Rat, Matt Dieck, Hudson Woelk, Teacher Steven Carbo, Doey Holder, Tarazzia Millar, and De'shaun Bayne.*

## STUDENTS EFFECT POSITIVE 'CHANGE'

### ***EWMMS Kids Show Their Character***

Each month, the Character Counts Committee at Edmund W. Miles Middle School, in conjunction with the school's Shared Decision Making Committee, develop a theme for students to demonstrate positive character traits. Caring was selected as the trait of the month for December, and the school decided to collect loose change for the "A Change Is Being Made" initiative. Students collected more than \$500 in change, which was used to purchase gifts for families in need of assistance. Seventh graders raised the most money (\$330). Science teacher Dr. Laura Soluri coordinated the effort with teacher Jennifer Pepe and school social workers, with help from other staff members.



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***Amityville HS  
Wins National  
Breakthrough Award***

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR *Superintendent*

Dear Amityville Resident,

As we look toward the next few weeks for some relief from the harsh and at times downright treacherous winter, school officials are already in the midst of what many of us refer to as budget season.

The Board of Education and I have been working closely with the business department, principals and departmental directors in the district to develop a responsible budget for the 2011-2012 year. Our ongoing goal is to provide a quality education for children while ensuring it is affordable for our community.

This year, the budget process will be as challenging a task as any of us have experienced in a long time, perhaps ever. School districts throughout New York State will be forced to absorb significant losses in state aid while simultaneously funding increased operational costs, many of which are mandated by the State and Federal Government

and the State Education Department.

As you can see by reading many of the articles in this edition of the *Tide* that student achievement is on the rise in Amityville and the culture of our district continues to evolve. Educators remain focused on teaching compassion and character education while preparing students to be successful in our increasingly competitive world. Our children are improving academically, demonstrating good character traits, expressing their creative talents—and receiving recognition for all of this!

While Amityville students are on the upswing, the same cannot be said for the State of New York's finances. We are in the midst of what is estimated to be a \$9 billion budget deficit and lawmakers are calling for major cuts to the state's education budget—likely close to \$1.5 billion. This, combined with significantly larger contributions to retirement systems that we are required by law to pay, the loss of STAR payments, and ongoing unfunded mandates, make it extremely difficult for us to maintain a program that supports continuing gains in student achievement.

With that said, the Board of Education and I will not lose focus on the children of Amityville and their education. We have some difficult choices to make in the next few months and are looking at every area of the budget to trim costs where we can. However, I want to stress we will not sacrifice our children's progress and the traditions that are in place in Amityville. Our responsibility is to ALL of the residents of Amityville.

Budget development workshops are ongoing through the month of April, when the Board will adopt a proposed budget. You may refer to the district calendar and website for dates, locations and times. I encourage you to attend as many of these workshops as possible and future Board meetings to stay informed on the issues, as well as the fine work that's being done in and around our schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. John R. Williams  
Superintendent of Schools

## PARK AVE. LAUNCHES PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER

Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES) is looking to raise money to build a new playground. Realizing the fiscal crisis of New York State and the challenge that school district officials face when developing a budget, Principal Scott Bullis announced that the school will conduct a series of fundraising events and activities and pursue other avenues of outside grants and financial support to bring a playground to PAMES.

Currently, the 845 students at the school have two basketball hoops, one baseball field and no playground equipment. There is space to accommodate a playground structure in the southwest corridor of the school grounds and Mr. Bullis and the school's Playground Committee have worked with two different companies to draw up plans based on how much funding can be raised.

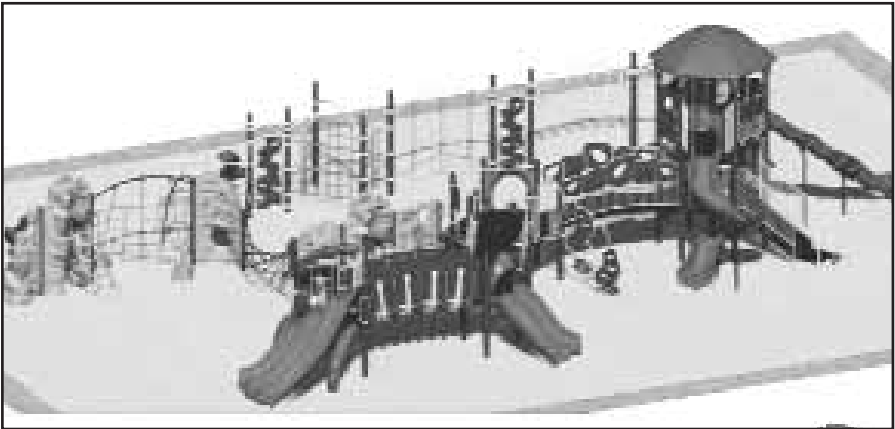
"We are trying to turn nothing into something," said Mr. Bullis, referring to the unutilized space where the playground would be built. "This type of playground will provide students with the opportunity to be more productive during their recess."

It is estimated that \$150,000 would cover the cost of the playground with installation; however, Mr. Bullis noted if enough volunteers were to offer to help with the assembly of the playground equipment, the cost would be considerably less. Mr. Bullis and Anjany Persaud, president of the PAMES Playground Committee, made their presentation to the community at a recent Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Persaud and Mr. Bullis noted that a new playground facility would help to combat child obesity by promoting exercise. In fact, the designs being explored contain an upper body-strengthening component. A new playground would also promote collaborative play and provide children with additional

opportunities to demonstrate more random acts of character, which has been a major part of the school's curriculum for the past few years. Additionally, it would make supervision more manageable.

PAMES will be providing each school in the district and local businesses with jars for people to donate to the "Pennies for a Playground" fund. Through the 21st Century BEST program, students have been recycling water bottles and saving the proceeds for the playground, and this spring PAMES will host a carnival to help raise money for the playground. Additionally, the Amityville Parent Teacher Coalition has pledged to do its fair share of fundraising.



*An architectural rendering of one of the playground options Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School is exploring. Students could benefit from a playground like this, however, due to budgetary constraints from the state on down, the school is appealing to donors for help.*

## U.S. Ed Dept. Secretary Hosts District Officials

U.S. Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan invited Board of Education President Michele Sikhrangkur, Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Williams, and Amityville Teachers Association President Carolyn Dodd to join representatives from school districts and labor leaders from across the country to attend a federally sponsored conference in Denver designed to identify ways that collaborative labor-management relationships, policies and agreements can more directly drive student achievement.

"We have seen how good labor-management relations can create the conditions that drive student success so we want to bring together leaders in labor and management who are committed to collaboration around bold reforms," said Secretary Duncan. "We're setting a high bar for attendance at this conference because these school districts and labor leaders will have to go back home and do some very hard work to ensure that student success is the central goal in everything that they do."



# Amityville Memorial High School Breaks Through!

## One of only 10 schools in the country to win NASSP Award

Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) is one of 10 schools in the United States recognized for academic successes through the 2011 MetLife Foundation-National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Breakthrough Schools program. The schools was honored at the 2011 NASSP Conference, which was held in San Francisco, CA, February 24-27, 2011.

The MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough Schools program recognizes middle level and high schools that are high achieving or are dramatically improving student achievement and serve large numbers of students living in poverty. AMHS and the other winning schools will be featured in the NASSP magazine and each school will receive a grant of \$5,000. AMHS is one of only two schools in New York State to win the award and is the sole high school in the state to have been bestowed the honor.

“We really focused on building a strong foundation, beginning with the establishment of a trusting, supportive, caring and flexible environment that looks to create relationships based on actions and deeds, not just talk,” said AMHS Principal Dr. Scott Andrews. “It’s difficult to get the students to concentrate on academic

achievement without focusing on their social and emotional development, as well. I believe our focus on personalizing each student’s experience transformed the culture of our school.”

Dr. Andrews added that the focus on adding rigor to the academic program and identifying areas of the curriculum where students struggled – and addressing those struggles individually – was a major force in the recent success. He lauded his staff and the partnership achieved with the parents and community members.

“Our community at AMHS is a family. Faculty and students care about each other,” said teacher Jennifer Trotman. “We focus on the academic, social, and emotional aspects of our students’ lives. The faculty prides themselves on the fact that students can open up and talk to us. That special relationship that we have as educators positively impacts our students’ lives forever.”

“This proves that a strong, collaborative effort between a dedicated school staff and a caring parental community, united in their efforts,



Representatives from NASSP met with faculty and students before selecting AMHS as one of 10 Breakthrough schools in the country.

produces the most positive of results,” added Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Williams. “On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire administration, I congratulate Dr. Andrews, his faculty and staff, the students and the entire Amityville school community for shining in the national spotlight and continuing to educate for a bright future.”

## Community Exchanges Cultivate Friendships

This fall, students at Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) welcomed back their friends from Plainedge High School for yet another of many meetings between the two schools designed to immerse students from one school in another’s culture. The ultimate goal is to broaden students’ views of people who are different than them and teach them to become more accepting of others. Although AMHS and Plainedge are just 12 minutes away from one another, the racial makeup is vastly different.

“Rather than discussing diversity in a typical classroom lesson, students have the opportunity to experience it first hand. One of our mantras is ‘knock down walls and build bridges,’” said AMHS teacher Jason McGowan, who led the development of the program with teachers from Plainedge High

School, an idea he admittedly borrowed from his father, also an educator. Fifty students from each school participate in the visit; each student is paired with another for the day. A typical day starts out with a series of ice-breaker activities coordinated by Mr. McGowan and the Plainedge teachers. Students get to know one another before attending classes together, having lunch together, and participating in other bonding activities. Now in its third year, the program continues to flourish, and the feedback from students has been extremely positive. “They are finding more universal things in common, than differences,” added Mr. McGowan, who will accompany the AMHS students to Plainedge this spring for a follow-up visit. In the meantime, students stay in touch on their own time, some getting together outside of school and others through Facebook. Another bonding experience involving AMHS students and staff took place earlier this fall when 120 students and 13 staff members spent their weekend at the school, including sleeping overnight. Also coordinated by Mr. McGowan, the weekend included guest motivational speakers, family group sessions, sports, skits, a late night pillow fight and plenty of socializing, with breakfast, lunch and dinner provided. “Each participant was given a ‘warm fuzzy’ – a ball of yarn to wear around their neck in which each string represented a hug, which the kids did a lot of,” added Mr. McGowan. “Each participant wore their fuzzy to school the next Monday and spread the love throughout the high school community.”



AMHS and Plainedge students are forming friendships that transcend the school walls.

## Back in Good Standing

Amityville Schools are back in “Good Academic Standing” according to the State Education Department (SED). The commissioner’s office announced the news earlier this winter, the result of improved student performance on state exams. Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Williams attributed the gains to a careful analysis of previous test scores, to pinpoint individual student strengths and weaknesses and to establish skills to focus on for improvement. Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School and Edmund W. Miles Middle School were specifically identified by SED as schools meeting progress benchmarks following specific corrective action taken in the area of English Language Arts instruction. The district has taken steps to ensure that all teachers receive 18 hours of annual staff development, a stipulation of the current employment agreement, which can also be attributed to this success.



*Candidates for EWMMS Student Government (from left to right) Stanley Colas-Vice President (elected), Angela Laws-President (elected), Philip Monte- Secretary (elected), Michael LaRosa-Vice President, Madison Baldwin-Secretary, Nefe Abamwa-Treasurer, Yessina Morales-President, Roxanne Roach-President, David Holmes-Treasurer (elected), and Kaafhief Morgan-Vice President.*

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Students at Edmund W. Miles Middle School learned about the democratic process in a hands-on manner as the school conducted its Student government elections in conjunction with the general election. Ten candidates campaigned for various offices to govern the school, highlighted by a debate just days before the school-wide election in which their classmates asked some very interesting questions.

“The debate gave the students an opportunity to make an informed decision,” said Assistant Principal Michele Darby, who advised the student body, “Do not vote for the candidate that looks the nicest or is the most popular student. Vote for the candidate that you think will do the most for you and represent your best interests.”

Angela Laws, who ran on a platform of improving academic performance at the school, was elected President. “We want to make lessons a little more interesting, and more topical,” said Angela during the debate, “with less reading from the textbooks and greater emphasis on classroom discussion.”

Angela and her fellow elected officers meet regularly with Ms. Darby and Principal Dr. Mark Pitterson to make recommendations and provide peer feedback. Joining Angela on the Miles Student Government are Vice President Stanley Colas, Treasurer David Holmes and Secretary Philip Monte.

## Dressed for Success

Students at Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS) are learning how to make a great first impression – by dressing for success. Students are encouraged to dress in professional attire for special assemblies and events and are acknowledged for their efforts. During the Student Government debate those students who dressed in said attire were given front row seats to ask questions of the candidates (pictured). EWMMS Assistant Principal Michele Darby, Math Director Claude Irwin, physical education teacher Isha Hamilton, and social studies teacher Paul Duguay serve on the Dress for Success committee.

“The program is designed to create distinction, awareness and instill pride in students,” said Mr. Irwin.



## Math Made Fun

January 21st was declared Fraction Day in the district, as teachers developed various hands-on activities to promote numerical literacy and understand the many different ways to make up a whole. At Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES), students in Nancy Finizio’s third-grade class (pictured left) created colorful presentations to show how equivalent fractions represent the same amount. Also at PAMES, students in Julianne Roman’s and Stacey Katt’s third-grade class created fraction necklaces and wore them during their lessons. Second-graders in Jennifer Callahan’s class at Northwest Elementary School created their own “Picture Pies” of animals, determining what percentages of a circle were needed to create their colorful crafts. Sporting their own pie shaped ‘bling,’ Northwest Interim Principal Dr. Shirley Martin and Director of Math Claude Irwin commended the students for their projects (pictured right).





# Musicians Honored

## Record Number of SCMEA Musicians Selected



Amityville School District musicians were honored at a recent Board of Education meeting for their exemplary participation in various regional, county, and state music events. Among them was the Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Marching Band that participated in the Hofstra Marching Band Festival this fall. Marching Band drum majors Calvin Latchman and Alex Ynoa (pictured above being congratulated by music teacher and band director Brian Wishin) were recognized for their leadership during rehearsals and performances.

Additionally, a group of select seventh grade musicians from Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS) were congratulated for their selection to the Hofstra Middle School Honors Band, performing with band composer Sean O’Loughlin and conductors from the university. They are Madai Villa, Katherine Eastwood, Gloria Canales, Tiarah Calderon, Deon Clark, Amanda Boegle, and Rene Hernandez. Their teacher is Nicole Altamura.

Musicians from EWMMS and Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES) were also honored for various performances: at the Suffolk County Music Educators Association

(SCMEA) Tuba Day, Michael Dealy represented PAMES and Taniesha Lawhorne represented EWMMS; at the Long Island Flute Festival, PAMES representatives included Aaron Mathurin and Angela Murphy, while Aidan McGlone, Kaelana Linton, Alexandra Preza, Kendra Thornton, Ali Fernandez, and Jonas Archer played for EWMMS; at the Trombone Day Festival, Ariana Sims from PAMES and Christian Vasquez represented the district well; and at the SCMEA PEAK (Parents, Educators, and Kids) festival, fourth graders representing PAMES included James Carey, Yosselyn Castillo, Xavier King, Emmanuel Turcios, Mikel Murphy, Johana Sanchez, Meghan Luders, and Gabriel Jean-Bart. Teachers Debbie Kontogianis, Nicole Altamura, Joe Sciolino, and Leonora Colletti prepared the students for these experiences in their respective areas.

Many of the PAMES and EWMMS musicians and their teachers are pictured together (bottom right) being congratulated by Director of Fine Arts Fran Fernandez.

Standout AMHS musicians Meghan Brooks and Cherrelle Crews were also commended for their selection to the recent New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Conference and the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME)/SCMEA All-County winter concert. Amityville also received 15 selections for the upcoming

SCMEA All-County Festival in March for grades 5-10. They are, from AMHS: Amauris Ferreira (band) and Simone Smith (chorus); from EWMMS: Anthony Abate (chorus), Jeannine Hernandez (band), Maridalia Abreu (chorus), Radel Alberto (chorus), Catherine Arriola (chorus), Andrew Abate (orchestra), and Ambar Knapp (orchestra); and from PAMES: Meghan Jacobsen (band), Alisha Alexandre (chorus), Quanisha Alexandre (chorus and band), Samantha Lawrence (chorus), and Rael Memnon (orchestra).

With 17 selections, this marks a record number of nominations to the SCMEA performing groups this year.

Three district orchestral musicians were also selected to participate in the Long Island String Festival (LISFA) performing groups in January. The students selected are: AMHS’s Andre Maxwell (cello), EWMMS’s Andrew Abate (bass) and PAMES’s Madison Daly (violin). Admission to LISFA is highly selective as students were selected based on their NYSSMA levels, ratings, festival comments, and teacher recommendations. Their orchestra teachers are Jessica Recher and Cristine Pizzo.



## Honoring Dr. King With Style



band, which was led by AMHS music teacher John LaMarca. The students departed the church to a standing ovation from the audience, which included Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Williams.

The Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Jazz Ensemble spent their day off from school honoring the memory of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a performance at the Bethel AME Church. The performance was part of a combined celebration between the Circle of Love Ministries and the Bethel AME Church on Dr. King’s birthday (observed). Parishioners and invited guests clapped their hands to the beat of the







# A GOLDEN APPLE FOR MILES HEALTH TEACHER

Congratulations to Edmund W. Miles Middle School Health teacher Bernadette Kraljic who is a recipient of the March of Dimes Golden Apple Award. The award is presented to teachers who go above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to make a difference in the lives of their students and school community. Director of Physical Education, Health, Nurses and Athletics Anthony Cerullo nominated Ms. Kraljic based on her “out-of-the-box” teaching style with regards to health, life, and developmental issues and the overall care she demonstrates for all of her students. Ms. Kraljic teaches seventh and eighth grades.

## Honored for Awareness

Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) senior Jana Jackson is one of only two Long Island teens recognized for her volunteerism in HIV and AIDS education by New York State Health Commissioner Richard Daines. For several years Jana has served as the voice of young people for the Long Island Regional Committee's Faith Communities Project, developed by the New York State Department of Health to utilize religious institutions for the promotion of HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, support,

and care efforts. Jana works closely with local clergy groups on this effort and also educates her peers at AMHS. She is being congratulated here by AMHS Principal Dr. Scott Andrews.



## Honored Essayist

Amanda Ramirez, a senior at Amityville Memorial High School, was recently honored for her essay submission in the Suffolk County Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy awarded Amanda a certificate of recognition for her essay about her heritage. Amanda participates in the Early Suffolk Community College Program and plans on studying creative writing and English in college with aspirations of a career in writing professionally. She is on the staff of the school newspaper ECHO and has contributed to the school's literary magazine *Expressions*. Director of Guidance Patricia Hausfeld, Guidance Counselor Andrew Akapnitis and Principal Dr. Scott Andrews are seen here congratulating Amanda as she displays her certificate of recognition.



## Principal Selected to Develop Statewide Literacy Plan

Northeast Elementary School Principal Pauline Collins is among 30 educators in New York State (only two in Suffolk) selected to serve on a team to develop a comprehensive Statewide Literacy Plan to help children from birth to grade 12 throughout the state. Ms. Collins is a group facilitator specializing in the area of preschool instruction. She and her colleagues on the team are conducting research and analyzing data on the best literacy practices utilized throughout the country, working in a virtual setting to develop a guidance document to be submitted to the State Education Department (SED) and put into action. “We hope the plan shows what resources are available, but that it also brings to light the gaps that occur,” said Ms. Collins, who was tapped by a representative from SED after a site visit to the school last year. Only 10 states in the country have universal literacy plans; New York is not one of them.



## A Leader of Young Men and Women

Congratulations to Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Social Worker Reynolds Hawkins, who is the recipient of the Hollywood Full Gospel Baptist Cathedral's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award. Mr. Hawkins was chosen for the award based on the example he sets for Amityville youth, both in his profession as a social worker and as the Boys Track Coach. He is also a graduate of AMHS.



# Winter Fun and Learning

Northwest Elementary School opened its doors to students and their parents one chilly December night for “Winter Wonderland,” an event designed to celebrate the holiday season and allow young children to enjoy arts and crafts and other fun activities with their families.

Coordinated by school social worker Debra Lee in conjunction with Amityville Memorial High School’s (AMHS) Interact Club advisor Brenda King and Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS) Junior Honor Society advisor Carlee Wallenstein, “Winter Wonderland” included snowman craft building in the school cafeteria and a host of activities in the gymnasium. Gym activities included students pinning clothes on a snowman, a winter-themed beanbag toss, a snowflake relay (pictured top right), a letter forming game using arms and legs and other creative activities that enabled youngsters to exercise their brains and their bodies.

Every child went home with a book and every Northwest student received a goodie bag. EWMMS National Junior Honor Society and AMHS Interact Club members volunteered their time to help chaperone activities and some provided holiday musical accompaniment.

At Northeast Elementary School Pre-K and kindergarteners were treated to a prime time “Let It Snow” reading night. Children read storybooks of a winter theme and later participated in arts and crafts such as snowflake cutouts, sequential building a snowman (pictured right), showing off their math skills by creating patterns with snowman buttons and other creative and critical thinking-based projects. Each child was given a sticker upon completion of their craft and collaborated on a large snowman mural.



## Teaching the Gift of Giving

Northeast Elementary School conducted a Holiday Boutique that provided young children with the opportunity to do some last minute holiday shopping for their parents and siblings –at very nominal prices. The Amityville Parent Teacher Council (APTC) sponsored the boutique, which included small Jets and Giants Nerf footballs, several small jewelry items, coffee mugs, and many other thoughtful gifts for purchase.



## Operation: “A Little Bit of Home”

Northwest Elementary School recently conducted Operation: “A Little Bit of Home.” With some input from U.S. Army Major Gregory Nardi, students and staff collected food, school supplies, toiletries, games and other useful items to send to the troops stationed in Afghanistan for the holidays. Northwest shipped nine boxes of goodies to Afghanistan before the holiday recess (as displayed below by school staff members).

Students also sent personally addressed cards to the soldiers, who are members of Major Nardi’s battalion, thanking them for protecting the country. Major Nardi, whose mother Kathy is a nurse at Northwest, wrote a heartfelt thank you letter to the students on behalf of the troops. He also promised to send photos of the soldiers using the items and Afghan children using the school supplies.

“The cards were the icing on the cake,” wrote Major Nardi. “We put them out in our mess hall and let the soldiers look at and read them while they are eating. It’s amazing how big a kick we all get out of [them].”



## The Moon’s No Limit

Fourth graders at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School participated in a videoconference with a NASA scientist from the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH, who discussed the moon and space travel in a fun and interactive way. Students witnessed a graphic recreation of the formation of the moon, observed a model rocket, learned how rockets are fired, as well as the distance between the earth and the moon (and the sun), the difference between a solar and lunar eclipse and how astronauts eat through their space helmets. Students were also given the opportunity to ask questions during the videoconference and emailed additional questions to the scientist after discussing further with their teachers in class.





# Athletes In the Zone

Congratulations to Amityville Memorial High School seniors Erin Governanti and Brian Kretz as the district’s recipients of this year’s Suffolk Zone Award, presented by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The award is presented to one female and one male in the 2011 graduating class who demonstrate outstanding physical performance, scholastic ability and leadership qualities while meeting high standards in the Healthy Fitness Zone and Fitness Gram assessments. In addition to performing well in physical education class, Brian is also on the varsity football, basketball and baseball teams. Erin is a member of the varsity soccer and volleyball squads. Athletic Director Ron Forman congratulates them here.



## Girls Soccer: Smarts & Sportsmanship

After a hard fought season, the Amityville Memorial High School Varsity Girls Soccer team, led by Captains Nimah Kellman and Kelly Siry, was honored with awards recognizing their performance both on and off the field. On the field, the team was awarded the League 6 Sportsmanship Award given by the Suffolk County Coaches Association and the Suffolk County Small School Sportsmanship Award given each year by the Suffolk County Officials Association.

Off the field, the team was recognized as a New York State Scholar-Athlete Team, achieving an overall team Grade Point Average higher than 90. This year is the third consecutive year the team has won this prestigious award. The team is coached by Chris Roth and John Katsigiorgis.



## Boys Winter Track Ranked #1



The Amityville Memorial High School Varsity Boys Winter Track team has been ranked as the number 1 Class B team in New York State. The team, which is in the midst of their season, boasts a nationally ranked hurdler and others are ranked near the top in Suffolk County. Sancho Barret is ranked 3rd in the U.S. (preseason poll) for the 55-meter high hurdles (7.52 seconds). He is also ranked 1st in New York State among public high school athletes. Nigel Simmons is ranked 12th in Suffolk County in the 55-meter high hurdles (8.24 seconds) and 8th in Suffolk for the Triple Jump (41’ 4”). Corey Carter is ranked 2nd in Suffolk and 3rd on Long Island in the Long Jump (22’ 3”). The team overall is ranked 2nd in Suffolk County in the 800-meter relay. Reynolds Hawkins is the Head Coach.

## Magic in Making Smart Decisions

Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School welcomed interactive magician Mark Wurst for an unforgettable anti-drug assembly entitled the “Say No Magic Show.” Mr. Wurst, with help from his sidekick Robbie the Rabbit—which he pulled out from a top hat– was entertaining and informative as he taught young students that they don’t need to use drugs to have fun.

Using jumbo cards, Mr. Wurst taught the youngsters the ABC’s of saying no (Always Be in Control), tore a sheet of tissue paper into pieces to illustrate how drugs can tear a person apart before magically reconstructing them into a ‘drug-free-hat,’ and strung together handkerchiefs to create a large “No-Brainer.” At the end of the show, he asked the children if they thought drugs were cool, and was met with a resounding “No.” He also inspired the young audience to chant “I believe in myself,” then asked them if they wanted to be followers or leaders, to which they emphatically replied “Leaders!”

Mr. Wurst performed a similar, age-appropriate assembly for students at Northwest Elementary School.



Magician Mark Wurst tore a sheet of tissue paper into pieces to illustrate how drugs can tear a person apart before reconstructing them into a ‘drug-free-hat’, which this student had the honor of wearing.

## Ring in the Year of the Rabbit



Third graders at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School celebrated Chinese New Year by practicing Chinese writing, learning the Zodiac, making Chinese drums and eating Chinese food. They even held their very own Chinese New Year parade around the classroom (pictured). Parent Kristen Hayes, who has traveled to China extensively, shared her insights and knowledge of the Chinese culture with students in the classes of Melissa Asbell, Marissa Peragine, Sandra Parmentier, Stacey Katt and Juliane Roman.



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