



The Amityville

SPRING 2011

TIDE

District Showcases Technology for NYSED Commissioner

New York State Education Department (SED) Commissioner of Education Dr. John King (pictured below) and a contingent of prominent educational leaders recently visited Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES) to witness for themselves the effectiveness of Amityville School District's leading-edge technology. Representatives from Right Reasons Technology (RRT), facilitator of Amityville Memorial High School's (AMHS) Virtual Academy and the district's computerized assessment benchmarking system, provided a presentation that was supported by testimony from administrators, teachers and students.

A model program for other schools in New York State, the AMHS Virtual Academy enables students who cannot attend regular classes to complete assignments through the use of a computer lab and web-based programs. Students keep up with their coursework in English, social studies, math, and science. Assignments are online and teachers are available to assist students.



"Something that you may not always get out of a classroom lesson or from somewhere else can be right in front of you using the Virtual Academy," said one student when asked by Dr. King what he liked about the program. "It also allows you to better focus. All of the information is right there."

Edmund W. Miles Middle



School Assistant Principal Michele Darby spoke about how student achievement training with the school's data team has been extremely helpful in diagnosing student strengths and weaknesses and addressing them in the classroom through the use of curriculum planners.

"We are not teaching to the tests, but rather ascertaining, cultivating and strengthening those skills that will help individual students succeed across the curriculum and in life," said Ms. Darby. "Hopefully, the results will help to inform our daily instruction so we can deliver more effective lessons. We are building life-long learners, not just students who can pass a test."

Associate SED Commissioner Kenneth Slentz, Nassau BOCES Superintendent Dr. Thomas Rogers, Western Suffolk BOCES Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Michael Mensch, and New York State Regent Roger Tilles joined Dr. King for his visit to Amityville. Dr. King and SED officials took an interest in Amityville's Virtual Academy and benchmarking program following a presentation made at this year's New York State School Board Association conference.

Amityville Among the *Best Communities for Music Education*

Kudos to the Amityville Fine Arts and Music Department, as the Amityville School District has been designated as one of only 179 districts nationwide to receive the honor of "Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM). A not-for-profit foundation, NAMM unifies, leads and strengthens the global music products industry and serves as a hub for the newest innovations in musical products and recording technology.

The "Best Communities for Music Education" survey acknowledges schools and districts across the U.S. for their commitment to and support of music education in schools. The survey measured a variety of factors, including budgetary commitment to music, opportunities to learn music, the presence of highly qualified, certified music teachers, adherence to state and national standards, types of musical experiences offered and opportunities for performance and competition, among others. To be one of the "Best Communities for Music Education," a community must demonstrate a commitment to high standards for music education in all of these areas.

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR *Superintendent*

Dear Amityville Resident,

On behalf of the Amityville Board of Education and my administrative team, I would like to thank the community for its support of the 2011-12 school district budget. On Tuesday, May 17th, voters overwhelmingly passed the proposed budget by a mark of 939-385. This reassures the Board and myself that we are doing the right thing and continue to act in the best interest of both the student population and the taxpaying population of the Amityville School District.

While the personnel reductions made were not without difficulty, we feel that the efficiencies created today will help our district for next year, and many years to follow. It is now up to all of us: administrators, teachers, and all other

members of our dedicated staff, district-wide, to ensure that we do not miss a beat.

As a result of approved budgets in recent years, the district has implemented higher learning standards and greater rigor into the instructional program. Student achievement has steadily risen in all academic areas. We were pleased to have been able to preserve all viable programs, and I am confident that the curriculum in place will continue to drive our students to succeed in the competitive educational landscape, and ultimately, the ever-evolving global workforce.

Approved budgets such as this provide the district with the resources and staff to keep students moving in the right direction. They enable us to preserve valuable electives and co-curricular programs and enhance certain programs whenever possible and wherever necessary. The Board of Education and I put forth what we believe to be a responsible budget in light of the current economic times and we are pleased that such a strong

showing of voters turned out on an inclement day to exercise their civic duty and demonstrate how much they care about the education of the children of Amityville.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank outgoing Board of Education Trustees Diane Koza Egglinger and Charles Walters for all of their hard work and their unwavering dedication to the children of Amityville. I congratulate and welcome Trustee-elect Mark Epps and Trustee-elect Ronald Moss to the Board, and look forward to working with them to build upon our successes and continue to improve our school system for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. John R. Williams

John R. Williams

Superintendent of Schools

AMHS STUDENT WINS BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM AND CIVILITY

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Long Island, in conjunction with the Suffolk County State Senate and Assembly Delegations and the Suffolk County Legislature, has awarded Amityville Memorial High School tenth grader Jamie Radhaykissoon its first annual Building Bridges Award. Jamie won the award based on her work volunteering to help physically challenged children learn how to ride horses on weekends at the Sweet Hills Riding Center in Melville. Her Advanced Placement World History teacher Dawn Levine, who nominated her for the award, is pictured here congratulating Jamie along with Amityville Director of Social Studies Jonathan Klomp. The award was presented as part of the JCRC's recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Northeast School and Local Government

Help Feed the Hungry

For the fifth consecutive year, the students of Northeast Elementary School teamed up with the Town of Babylon and New York State Assemblyman Bob Sweeny's office to help others in the community. This year, each of the 350 students enrolled at Northeast donated at least one non-perishable item of food to the St. Martin of Tours Church of Amityville Food Pantry as part of the Town's Global Youth Service Day program. Each class decorated a box and the students assisted in sorting items and filling the boxes. Pictured are Northeast student representatives being congratulated by Amityville Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Williams, Northeast Speech Teacher Colleen Kretz, Northeast School Principal Pauline Collins, Assemblyman Sweeny's Legislative Aide Denise Kretz, St. Martin of Tours Project Outreach Director Keith Mainhart, and Town of Babylon Project Manager for Community Development Programs Florence Findley.



In Their Honor! Amityville HS and EWMMS Induct

Honor Society Members

Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) and Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS) recently inducted its latest members into the Edward Reed Gage Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), respectively.

Twenty-seven new inductees were welcomed at AMHS while an additional twenty-six were inducted at the middle school. At AMHS, senior Honor Society members had the opportunity to recognize three influential educators who have made a difference in their lives, whether academically, musically, athletically or socially. At EWMMS the new inductees presented a gift to the people most influential in their success, as well.

The NHS and NJHS are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NHS and NJHS serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character (and Citizenship for NJHS).

Co-advisors for the AMHS NHS are Heather Persan and Jodi Roisman. Carlee Wallenstein is the advisor for the EWMMS NJHS. Congratulations to the new inductees!



AMHS NHS 2011

Inductees

Aisha Andre
Jasmine Belizaire
Sarah Cadet
Desiree Campbell
Nicolette Dammacco-Charles
Azha Daniels
Sha-naisha Daniels
Kiara Don
Amauris Ferreira
Rajah Goodrich
Kevin Griffin
Kaara Henriquez
Oscar Hernandez
Hunter Iacovetti
Rene Idrovo
Symone Jacas
Andy Laurent
Troy Mahabeer
Ira Mamba
Adetokunba Martins
Stiven Jesus Nunez
Ashlei Reece-Fulton
Maria Reyes
Brandi Roseboro
Simone Smith
Emily Spizzirri
Edward Ynoa

EWMMS NJHS 2011

Inductees

Sultan Abdulsalami
Berlin Ati
Bertha Ati
Shaneka Bernard
Amanda Boegle
Torriann Christie
Jose Coto
Casey Dodge
Kenneth Dinnoo
Katherine Eastwood
Eduardo Hernandez
Rene Hernandez
Alanna Iacovetti
John Jack
Jayla Jones-Pack
Whidlyn Kernizan
Christopher Mikolaitis
Victor Montes
Abdul Qawi Muhammad-Granville
Vanessa Nevers Ottey
Kayla Pryz
Thorin Sanchez-Guerra
Casey Terbaniesingh
Jocelyn Umana
Veronica Velez
Madai Villa

Building a Future



An impressive contingent of Amityville teachers volunteered their time one Saturday this spring to help build a home in Bay Shore for a family through the Habitat for Humanity Program. The home provides a stable living environment for four young children and their mother and father. The parents hold four jobs between them and dad is also a National Guardsman.

FAIRS HAVE STUDENTS Career-Minded

AT E.W. MILES MS...

Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS) welcomed professionals from a wide variety of career fields to provide students with insight into their respective careers and the steps they took along the way. The school even took advantage of some of the in-district talent, with teachers and support staff members offering their time to discuss their current and past careers.

One example of this is EWMMS science teacher Dr. Laura Soluri, who was a professional podiatrist before pursuing a career as a teacher in Amityville. Miles science teacher Doug Demaria, who once worked as a forensic investigator, also talked about his

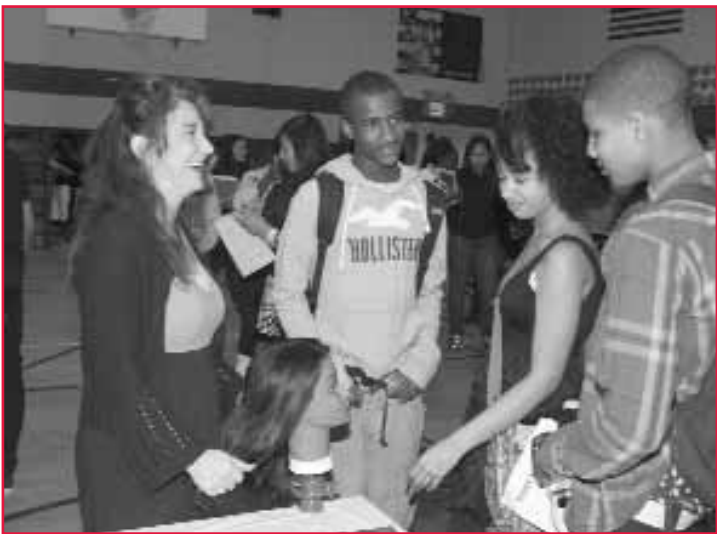


Tom Durante discusses the benefits of becoming a commercial airline pilot with students at EWMMS.

former and current careers. Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School Guidance Counselor

Kimberly Balducci was yet another member of the Amityville Schools professional family that made time to talk to students about how much she enjoys helping them, as well as the educational path she took to get here.

Professionals in fields such as banking, broadcasting, law enforcement, and music were also on hand to share information, as well as a cosmetologist, a screenwriter and an airline pilot. EWMMS students have also been learning how to conduct themselves in the workforce environment and have been donning professional attire on designated days for the school's "Dress for Success" initiative, launched earlier this year.



Wilson Tech Cosmetology teacher Joanna Holik discusses the benefits of her career with EWMMS students during the school's career fair.

...and at PAMES

Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES) recently held a College and Careers Week.

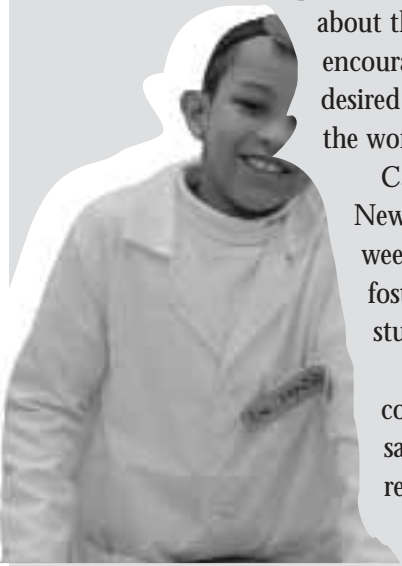
In advance of the week's activities, the school held an assembly to encourage students to give some thought to careers and college with Stony Brook University's Dean of Admissions Judith Berhannan serving as the guest speaker. Ms. Berhannan advised students on how to prepare for college studies, well in advance of secondary school. Students were also treated to a video about the importance of college and careers, which even starred some fellow PAMES classmates.

Raffles of prizes were conducted throughout the assembly. A schoolwide college essay contest was also held, and students at every grade level received lessons from guidance on college and career education.

As a culmination of the activities, parents and local community professionals visited PAMES to talk to students about their occupations, as students were encouraged to dress in attire indicative of their desired future careers. A diverse variety of fields in the workforce were represented.

Career education is an important part of the New York State Learning Standards. The weeklong activities at PAMES were designed to foster college and career interest in young students.

"It is essential to make the college/career connection for our students at an early age," said Principal Scott Bullis, "so they begin to realize the importance of their education in order to have a successful future."



News 12 Producer Debi Gade was hoping to inspire some aspiring journalists.



Monroe College Professor and Associate Admissions Director Cecil Wright gives some early advice to students about getting into the college of their choice.

AMHS INTERACT IS THE Gold Standard

Four members of Amityville Memorial High School's (AMHS) Interact Club have won gold medals in the Central Long Island NAACP's Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO). This marks the first time that any one school from Long Island has come away with four gold medal winners. Just as important, AMHS senior Cherelle Crews is the first student to win three medals, including two gold and one bronze.

Cherelle, an extremely talented pianist and percussionist, won the gold in both the classical and contemporary piano categories. She won a bronze in the music composition category.

AMHS senior Jean Alouidor won his gold medal in the poetry category, while seniors Cindy Coffee and Ashlee Reece-Fulton won gold for the art and vocal ensemble categories, respectively. Each of the students performed before a live audience and a panel of expert judges at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood.

As a result of their gold medals, all four have advanced to the NAACP Nationals to be held in Los Angeles, CA this July, where they will compete for scholarships. Additionally, Interact and COMPASS club advisor Brenda King will be honored this June with the Hofstra University Club's "Unsung Hero" Award for her work with both clubs, and her efforts leading students to help people in need in the community, nationally, and even abroad.

Ms. King is seen here with Jean, Cindy, and Cherelle. Ashlee is missing from the photo. Congratulations and good luck in the Nationals!



Northwest Leading the Recycling Charge

Northwest Elementary School Bilingual Teacher Maria Cottone and her second-grade class have been leading the school's recycling efforts. Ms. Cottone and her students (pictured here) have been placing recycling bins throughout the building and collecting them once they are full. The Town of Babylon provided the bins and Ms. Cottone volunteered to drop them off at the Town's recycling facility. Students and staff throughout the building have been pitching in, recycling paper products to keep Northwest School green. Kudos to Ms. Cottone and the school – keep up the great work!

Environmental Scholarships Awarded at Miles



Congratulations to Edmund W. Miles Middle School eighth graders Jackie Caballero and Salena Mo who are winners of a Babylon Coadvantage EchoTech Scholarship. Under the direction of science teacher Christine Quigley, Jackie and Salena collaborated on a project that promotes alternate energy through the use of algae. EchoTech scholarships are awarded to students in grades six through nine who develop projects that best promote alternate fuel generation, reduced emissions, and other methods of sustainability that reduce the carbon footprint. Their project was featured during the Town of Babylon's Earth Day celebration. The Town cosponsors the scholarship program with Covanta Energy Inc. Jackie and Salena were presented a mock check by Ms. Quigley, EWMMS Assistant Principal Michele Darby and Amityville District Director of Science Mike Fusaro.

MUSICIANS TAKE TOP HONORS AT FESTIVALS

Congratulations to the Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Symphonic Band, under the direction of Brian Wishin, and the AMHS Orchestra, under the direction of Jessica Recher. Both groups captured first place in their respective divisions at the “Music in the Parks” adjudication festival held at Dorney Park in Allentown, PA.

Within the evaluation portion of this performance assessment, the band received a “Superior” rating and the Orchestra received a “Good” rating. In addition, Amityville ensembles received the “Esprit de Corps” trophy –the highest honor of the festival presented to the school district ranked with the highest overall rating. The overall rating not only takes into account student performance and presence, but also behavior and presentation.

Additionally, the AMHS Orchestra was among two district instrumental ensembles that received “Silver” ratings for their performances at the NYSSMA Major Organization Assessment festival. The other was the AMHS Jazz Ensemble, directed by Chris La Marca.

“The students did a phenomenal job in representing our music program and district at these regional festivals and competitions,” said District Director of Fine Arts Frances Fernandez. “Congratulations to them and their teachers for a wonderful performance and a successful learning experience!”



The Amityville Tri-M Music Honor Society recently held a recital to entertain the community. Pictured at right are percussionists Kenya Crafton, Cherelle Crews, James Blotiau and Ryan Campbell as well as cellist Andre Maxwell above.



Literally Pushing the Creative Envelope

The renowned Pushcart Players recently rolled into Northeast and Northwest Elementary Schools for their program of performances entitled “Little Red Riding Hood and Other Stories.” The Pushcart Players are an award-winning arts in education performing group that conducts age-appropriate assemblies designed to inspire young children to think creatively in all areas and make connections between the performance and seemingly unrelated topics in life and in the curriculum. Pictured here, the group performs one of several short tales. The Players’ name is derived from the fact that their entire set is mobile, as sections sit on pushcarts and are easily interchanged and rearranged.

Leapin’ Lizards! Annie is a Hit

Amityville Memorial High School’s Drama Club performed its rendition of the musical *Annie* to packed houses. The performance was so well received that the Babylon Citizen Council on the Arts nominated the Amityville Drama Club for three Town of Babylon Youth (TOBY) Awards: Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical (Hayley Jacobsen as Miss Hannigan); Outstanding Dance; and Outstanding Stage Crew. In addition to Hayley’s award-nominated performance, Amanda Ramirez starred as everyone’s favorite little orphan, Annie, while Katie Staley played Grace Farrell and Matthew Miller was Oliver Warbucks. Melissa Asbell directed the show with Marisa Peragine assisting and choreographing. Leonora Coletti served as Musical Director.

Additionally, students from Amityville’s Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School and Edmund W. Miles Middle School (EWMMS) will be recognized as “Future TOBY Stars” for their work on the production. Students who will be recognized are: Halle Woelk, Aidan McGlone, Meghan Jacobsen, Madison Daly, Kyle Monte and Kyle Hobson. Congratulations to all.

EWMMS’s Drama Club also put on an excellent performance of *Into the Woods Junior*, which was very well received by the community.



Amanda Ramirez (pictured left) starred as everyone’s favorite little orphan, Annie, while Hayley Jacobsen’s performance as Miss Hannigan (right) was nominated for a TOBY Award. Both starred in Amityville Memorial High School’s production of the popular musical.

A Carnival of Literacy

Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES) opened its doors one evening for a 'Literacy Carnival' in which students and parents enjoyed fun activities designed to promote reading. The event included stations, otherwise referred to as 'Book Booths,' which were modeled after different series of age-appropriate books. Sponsored by the Amityville Parent Teachers Coalition in conjunction with the school's book fair, the event took on many of the characteristics of a traditional carnival, with games, popcorn, and raffles for tickets to Adventureland and gift certificates for future book purchases.

The Book Booths covered such series as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, the mysterious *39 Clues* book series, and Scholastic's *I Survived....* There were picture book and bilingual book booths, as well. Students also had the opportunity to vote on their favorite bookmark designs and books were available for purchase.



Family Food and Fun at Northwest



Northwest Elementary School recently hosted a Family, Food and Fun Night which welcomed students and parents to participate in a series of crafts, physical exercises and presentations—all designed to promote healthy eating habits, fitness and overall wellness. Exercising took place in the gymnasium, lessons and crafts about the Food Pyramid (seen above) were held in various classrooms, as well as healthy sing-a-longs and Yoga for Yogis (seen below). An informative presentation was held for parents, entitled "Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables." At the end of the evening students also had the opportunity to make and eat a healthy and delicious yogurt parfait. Free blood pressure screenings were also held.



Artists Know Their Rights

Congratulations to Northwest Elementary School first grader Genesis Perez who took first place honors at the Suffolk County Community College mixed media art contest "Which Amendment of the Bill of Rights Is Most Important to You." SCCC Librarian Kevin McCoy, who presented the honors at a recent Board of Education meeting, is seen here congratulating her. Genesis was part of a group from Northwest that swept the K-2nd grade mixed media awards as Raymond Espinal and Unahya Thomas placed second and third, respectively.

Additionally, congratulations to seniors James Blotiau and Blandine LeGrande, who represented Amityville in Long Island's Best Exhibit at the Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington. James was recognized for his ceramic work entitled "Earth Tones" and Blandine for her photograph entitled "Identity." The Long Island's Best Exhibit showcases the work of 80 students from high schools across Long Island.

Warrior Winter Track Stars Honored

Sancho Barrett Is NYS Athlete of the Year

The Amityville Memorial High School Boys Winter Track team ended a terrific season. Congratulations to Coach Reynolds Hawkins and the following student-athletes who earned top State-level Honors:

SANCHO BARRETT
CLASS B NEW YORK STATE
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
1st Ranked in 55 Meters
4th Ranked in 200 Meters
4th Ranked in 400 Meters

COREY CARTER
3rd Ranked Long Jump
IAN BROWN
7th Ranked 55 Meters
NIGEL SIMMONS
7th Ranked Triple Jump



Pictured (L to R) Ian Brown, Sancho Barrett, Coach Reynolds Hawkins, Nigel Simmons, and Corey Carter.

PAMES Students Have Healthy Hearts

In an effort to promote regular exercise and healthy hearts, the physical education staff at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School (PAMES) has been building in time before regular lessons for students to perform stretching, push-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks and other healthy activities. During National Healthy Heart Month in February, each student posted a paper heart just outside the gymnasium where they recorded their



name, height and the name and number of exercises they performed every gym class. Students also learned about healthy eating habits and how the heart works. PAMES physical education teachers (left) Jessica Bernius and William Maisel, health and physical education teacher Tiffany Pesale and physical education teacher (right) Coleen Charles are pictured here flanking PAMES students. Ms. Pesale coordinated the Healthy Heart activity with the other PAMES physical education teachers.



Amityville Memorial HS student Nimah Kellman gave a spectacular rendition of the National Anthem to kick off the 2011 Mayor's Cup game.

Warriors Baseball Plays for Mayor's Cup to Benefit Little Leaguers

For the first time ever, the Amityville Memorial High School (AMHS) Warrior Varsity Baseball Team took the field at Farmingdale State University against the Babylon High School Panthers Varsity Baseball squad for village bragging rights in the 2011 Mayor's Cup game. The Warriors represented the Village of Amityville while the Panthers represented Babylon Village in a game that raised funds to benefit some younger ballplayers.

Raffles were held to benefit the Little League in both communities, with prizes including Mets and Yankees tickets. Little League volunteers Nick Giampietro of Babylon and Joe Morin of Amityville organized the event. Chris Roth coaches the AMHS Warriors Baseball Team.

Amityville Village Deputy Mayor Peter Casserly and Babylon Village Mayor Ralph Scordino threw out the ceremonial first pitches to their respective high school catchers. The Amityville Girl Scouts presented the colors of the American flag alongside members of the Little League, and AMHS student Nimah Kellman gave a spectacular rendition of the National Anthem.

The Panthers came away with the trophy and the 1-0 victory. As a result, Amityville Mayor Peter Imbert must treat Mayor Scordino to breakfast or lunch in Babylon Village.



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