



Copiague Public Schools

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

www.copiague.k12.ny.us

FALL 2009

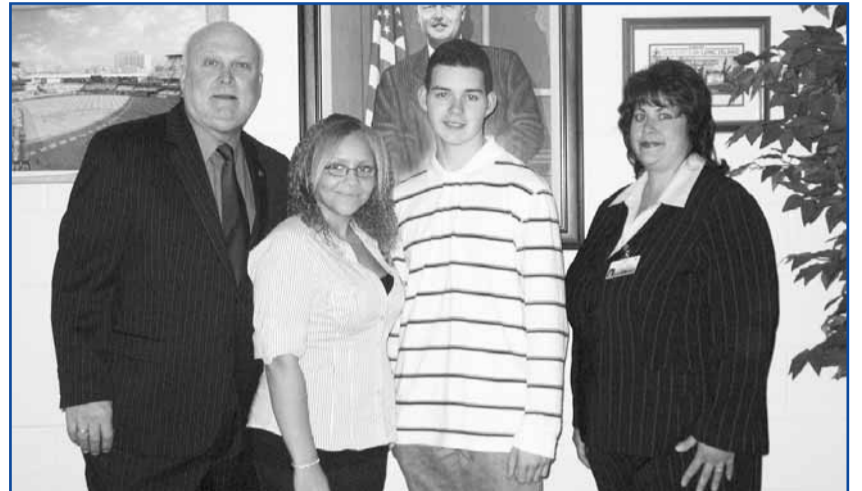
Advanced Placement Scholars

Fifteen students from Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School have earned Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Examinations taken last spring. The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the nearly 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

Valedictorian of the Class of 2009 Viet Khang Nguyen was named a National Scholar, while Class of 2009 Salutatorian Richard Pongvitayapanu qualified for the Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction Award. National Scholars must receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams, and an AP Scholar with Distinction must earn an average of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

Class of 2009 members Sebastian Bryk and Katherine Silva were named as AP Scholars with Honor by earning an average grade of at least a 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Eleven Copiague students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing 3 or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher.



Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Principal Albert Voorneveld, Class of 2010 AP Scholars Statia Thomas and Michael Vandermark, and Guidance Counselor Dawn Salegna.

The AP Scholars are: Danielle Diegue (Graduate, Class of 2009), Amanda Fanizza (Graduate, Class of 2009), Jessica Griffiths (Graduate, Class of 2009), Joanna Gromadzki (Graduate, Class of 2009), Brittany McCartan (Graduate, Class of 2009), James Prasad (Graduate, Class of 2009), Milton Tavares (Graduate, Class of 2009), Statia Thomas (Class of 2010), Michael Vandermark (Class of 2010), Nicholas Wolk (Graduate, Class of 2009), and Alexandra Zowak (Graduate, Class of 2009).

IN GOOD STANDING

The District is proud to announce that all five school buildings – Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, Copiague Middle School, Deauville Gardens Elementary School, Great Neck Road Elementary School, and Susan E. Wiley Elementary School – are all in good standing, according to New York State.

"I'm so excited," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kathleen Bannon. "This is the result of a really focused, team effort. The teachers worked hard, the students worked hard, and it really just came together."

In order to remain in good standing and to afford the students of Copiague the best education possible, staff members are continuously updating and revising the curriculum. Students are also offered numerous extra-help opportunities and additional push-in remediation.

"Being a District in Good Standing really validates all of the hard work that goes on every day," said Dr. Bannon.

Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

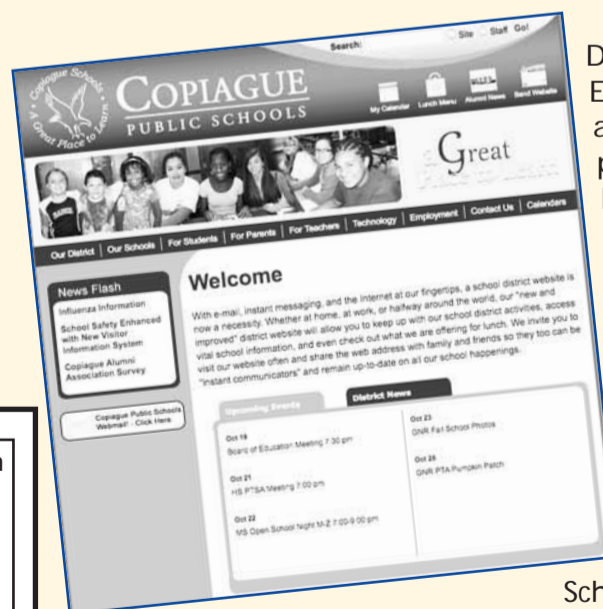
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Copiague School District

COPIAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT Announces *New Website*

Visit us at www.copiague.k12.ny.us



The Copiague School District Board of Education and administration are pleased to announce the launch of the District's redesigned website. The new site has been created to serve as a reliable source of information for parents, students, community residents, and anyone interested in knowing more about the Copiague School District.

You are invited to visit this site for up-to-date information on District activities, student achievements, and to access important school information. We hope you find the District's new website informative and interesting. For the latest news and information visit the District's website at www.copiague.k12.ny.us.

A MESSAGE from the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

Our school year is well under way and as we move into the cooler weather of the fall season, it's a great time to pause and reflect on how far our school district has come and what the future holds. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I am thankful that the Copiague Schools are continuing on the right path to success. We have all the ingredients to support this success – a dedicated Board of Education whose top priority is children, the best staff I've ever been associated with, students who make us proud every single day and an extremely supportive community. The result of this powerful recipe is demonstrated in the ever-increasing academic performance of our students

which speaks for itself.

As I have observed at our Homecoming festivities, football games, Kiwanis Car Show, Youth League Parade, our Tournament of Bands and so many other events this fall season, it occurred to me just how special a place Copiague is. Our schools and our community are truly one and Copiague's motto is more evident than ever: **A Great Place to Live, Learn and Work!** Our school facilities are in great shape and provide safe environments for academic excellence.

As you read through this latest edition of our newsletter, you will have an opportunity to review the evidence for yourself. Featured in this issue are pieces about the unveiling of our new district website, our annual Homecoming and the Hall of Achievement Induction, School Board Recognition, new administrators and supervisors, a variety of student and staff development activities, and of course, stories that focus on academics such as our latest group of AP Scholars.

The features in this newsletter also demonstrate that we continue to forge ahead with initiatives that will strengthen the educational experience that we provide for our children. We cannot allow the programs we offer our children to become stagnant, or worse yet, backslide. Of course, we are trying to accomplish this during a time of economic distress across the country. Please be assured that we remain cognizant of this and are trying, at every turn, to provide the "biggest bang for your buck" when using our community's precious financial resources on behalf of our children.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming holidays and look forward to seeing you in our schools and community throughout the school year.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of Schools

COPIAGUE'S NEWEST STAFF Welcomed at Orientation

While students were still enjoying their last days of summer, the District held its annual New Staff Orientation for all new members of the District staff, in preparation for the first day of school.

With 23 new teaching and administrative members in attendance during the first day of the three-day orientation, Board of Education President Laura Gavey, Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, and the rest of the Copiague administrative team welcomed the newcomers to the District.

"We are a district that is in a renaissance," stated Mr. Leunig. "In every measurable way, we are going in the right direction. In a way, Copiague is the perfect place to work. We have a phenomenal Board of Education and a supportive community. We have great administrators and supervisors. We have a wonderful teaching and support staff. And the most important, in these days, we have stability. People who work in Copiague tend to stay. Welcome to the Copiague family."

During the three-day orientation, the new staff received a bus tour of the District and attended a multitude of workshops led by District administrators and teachers. Workshops covered many different topics ranging from school safety and technology to how to ensure a successful school year.



COPIAGUE STAFF HONORED FOR SERVICE

During the District's Annual Superintendent's Conference Day, held prior to the start of the new school year, the District recognized the professionalism, commitment, and dedication of staff members who have served the Copiague community for 20 years or more.

Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig and Executive Director of Human Resources Todd Andrews brought those in attendance back in time as they shared the news of the year, and names of songs, movies, and television shows that were popular as far back as 1974, when two of the honorees first began their careers in the Copiague School District.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STAFF MEMBERS:

20 YEARS: Melody Cesare, Maureen Christie, Margaret Costello, Karen Coyle, Steven Foster, Kathleen Green, Bonny Harris, James Konen, Patricia Mooney, Frances Pinder, Stephen Rebholz, Sarah Rowan, Rose Marie Scalley, Nancy Schneider, Suzanne Scotti, Arlene Sherer, Michele Smith, and Muriel Wisniewski.

25 YEARS: Michele Bonaventura, Peter Cesare, Rochelle Festa, Jan Leimone, Carole Schildhaus, Karen Swenson, and John Wevers.

30 YEARS: Rose Marie Bell, Stephanie Lanfranchi, and Julia Tedeschi.

35 YEARS: Charlotte Conlon and Thomas Tilton



Stephanie Lanfranchi, Julie Tedeschi, and Rose Marie Bell were congratulated by Mr. Leunig and Mr. Andrews for 30 years of service.



District employees earning 20-year service awards were congratulated by Mr. Leunig and Mr. Andrews.

Copiague Board Member Appointed as Secretary/Treasurer of NSSBA

The District would like to extend its congratulations to Board of Education Trustee Brian J. Sales for his appointment as Secretary/Treasurer of the Nassau/Suffolk School Boards Association (NSSBA). NSSBA is comprised of regional representatives located throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties whose primary goals include the advancement of education and service to member boards. Mr. Sales has been on the Copiague Board for the past 13 years and a member of the NSSBA Board since 2005.



John Wevers, Karen Swenson, Carole Schildhaus, Jan Leimone, Michele Bonaventura, Peter Cesare, and Rochelle Festa were congratulated by Mr. Leunig and Mr. Andrews for 25 years of service.



Charlotte Conlon was congratulated by Mr. Leunig and Mr. Andrews for 35 years of service.

Copiague Welcomes Its New Administrators



Peter H. Michaelsen, *Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations*

With more than 30 years experience spanning four industries, including 17 in public education, the District is delighted to introduce Peter Michaelsen as the new Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Mr. Michaelsen joins Copiague from the Tonawanda City School District, located in upstate New York, where he worked as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance.

As Chief Financial Officer for Tonawanda, he served as Budget Director, Director of Food Service, Transportation Director, Personnel Director, Purchasing Agent, and Records Management and FOIL Officer. He also has served as Capital Projects Director, completing \$26 million in renovations to five campuses on time and within budget, along with the varied duties he already held, including conversion to full-day Kindergarten and elementary attendance zone redistricting and grade-level changes.

Mr. Michaelsen earned his Bachelor of Science and Master's in Business Administration, Specialist in Education Administration and School District Administrator Certification from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a certified School Business Official with an MBA, a school district clerk and treasurer. He is a member of the Association of School Business Officials (local, state and international), served on the Board of Governors for the NYS Insurance Reciprocal, and is on the Executive Committee for the New York State Safety Committee – Group 491. Mr. Michaelsen also received the Educational Administrator of the Year Award in New York State and Erie County in 2007.

He has been married for 28 years and has three college-aged children.



Michelle Budion, *Coordinator of English Language Learning*

Michelle Budion has been a member of the Copiague faculty since 2004, where she has served as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at the Copiague Middle School. During her tenure in Copiague, Ms. Budion has helped develop curriculum, conceived and facilitated an ESL book club for all middle school English Language Learners, and coordinated and facilitated the MS technology grant program through Suffolk BOCES.

Ms. Budion has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Hofstra University; a Master of Science in Teaching English as a Second Language from St. John's University; and School Building Leader/School District Leader Certifications from Stony Brook University.

"I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to move into this new role in a district where I love working," exclaimed Ms. Budion. "I'm excited about the new ideas that we will come up with together to continue to serve the English Language Learners here in Copiague and work toward our goal of success for all of our kids."



Dr. Linda Esposito, *Director of Instructional Support*

Following a year as District of Mathematics in the Half Hollow Hills Central School District, Dr. Linda Esposito is returning to Copiague as the Director of Instructional Support. Dr. Esposito previously worked in Copiague as Coordinator of Mathematics for three years. She has also worked as a high school mathematics teacher in the Massapequa School District and for the New York City Board of Education.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to use my skills in utilizing data to inform instruction and in collaborative models of staff development to support an outstanding group of teachers in helping students learn," said Dr. Esposito.

Dr. Esposito holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Dowling College; a Master of Arts in Mathematics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook; and a Doctor of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.



Mary Koehler, *Deauville Gardens Elementary School Assistant Principal*

Mary Koehler joins the District as the Deauville Gardens Elementary School Assistant Principal. Ms. Koehler was most recently Assistant Principal at Eastport-South Manor Central School District. Previously, she was a teacher within the William Floyd School District for 11 years. During her tenure at William Floyd, she was the Science Mentor and the Intermediate Literacy Coordinator.

"I am very grateful for the privilege of working in a District that has created and achieved clear, purposeful goals and look forward to being a part of its continuing progress and success," said Ms. Koehler.

She graduated from St. Joseph's College with a Bachelor of Arts in Education; Master's of Liberal Arts from State University of New York at Stony Brook; and Professional Certificates in School Building Leadership and School District Leadership from The College of St. Rose.



Jennifer Pierre-Louis, *Coordinator of Fine Arts*

Jennifer Pierre-Louis joins the District from Division Avenue High School in Levittown, where she was most recently the Music Department Chairperson. She worked in Levittown since 1995, and was previously Jazz Band Director, Band Teacher, Competitive Marching Band Director, and Drill Designer and Instructor.

Mrs. Pierre-Louis replaces André Poprilo as Coordinator of Fine Arts, who has been promoted to Assistant Principal at the high school. She graduated from Hofstra University with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education, and also received a Master of Arts in Secondary Education. Additionally, she holds an SDA Certification in Administration from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

"I am excited to work with the community, administration, faculty and students of Copiague to raise the level of the already outstanding fine arts program. I am looking forward to seeking out opportunities for further community and student participation in our programs and additionally looking for venues to spotlight the talent and dedication of our students."



HOMECOM

Eagles Fly at Copi

Eagle pride soared through the hallways of Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School in the week leading up to Homecoming on October 3. Throughout the week, students showed their school spirit by participating in spirit week activities and dressing up based on the day's theme. Spirit week culminated on Friday, October 2, with a pep rally, for which all of the classes gathered in the gymnasium to cheer on and support their fall athletic teams.

The morning of Homecoming commenced with a parade showcasing the students' floats. They marched from Great Neck Road Elementary School all the way to the High School, and participants included Board of Education members, teachers, administrators, and students, who displayed their grade-level floats much to the enjoyment of community residents who lined the streets to view the parade and show their school support. The Grand Marshals for this year's parade were the NYS Champions Girls Varsity Basketball team and their coach, NYS Coach of the Year Carole Olsen. The culmination of the parade



CELEBRATING A

Every year during Homecoming weekend the District honors past graduates of the Copiague Public Schools who have succeeded in their careers and lives, or have distinguished themselves by virtue of their contributions to community and society. This year, hours after cheering at the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Eagles pep rally in Smithtown East, the celebrating continued as honored guests, their families and friends gathered at the high school for the annual Hall of Achievement induction ceremony. In honor of the thirteenth year of the Hall of Achievement, four alumni were inducted into the Hall at a special ceremony.

"It is an honor and a privilege to recognize these four individuals in the Hall of Achievement," said Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Pulido. "The goal of the Hall of Achievement is to introduce positive role models to our school community. Such models, by their very nature, inspire students to adopt high aspirations. At the conclusion of tonight's ceremony, we hope these individuals will inspire our students to reach for the stars."

This year's honorees included Joseph Joyner, Class of 1967; Walter Pulido, Class of 1977; and Peter Sayevich, Class of 1978.

The evening concluded with the unveiling of the wall that holds the names of the main hallway of Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School.

ING 2009



League Homecoming

was the Homecoming 2009 Booster Club-sponsored Fair, at which student and PTA-run organizations set up booths to sell everything from cookies to popcorn. The carnival-like atmosphere provided music for dancing, games, and food that everyone could enjoy.

The bleachers were filled to capacity and it was standing-room-only when the Eagles took the field against Smithtown East. At the end of the second quarter, the score was Smithtown 14, Copiague 13. The score didn't stay like that for long, as the Eagles came back in the second half with a vengeance. The final score was Copiague 26, Smithtown East 14.

Halftime entertainment was provided by the high school's nationally ranked marching band and the Homecoming Court was announced. Homecoming King Alex Yake and Queen Johanna Canales were introduced along with their Royal Court, including freshmen Kyle Beck and Ashley Aptacker, sophomores Ron Paulino and Cierra Singh, and juniors Terrick Sims and Raquel Ramirez.



ACHIEVEMENT

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Tonight's inductees continue the tradition of giving back and

alter M. O'Connell, Class of 1964; Marie Theresa Silinonte-

ls the Hall of Achievement plaques prominently displayed in



COPIAGUE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Each year the Governor of the State of New York designates one week in October as School Board Recognition Week. At the start of a Copiague Board of Education meeting, the members of the Board were honored for their vision, leadership, and dedication to the students and residents of the Copiague community.

"We officially take a moment each year to recognize our Board of Education, who give freely of their time to multiple community causes," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "Together they represent 84 years of service. To their credit, our district is performing at the highest level in our history."

The ever-popular Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Madrigal Choir, under the direction of Larry Wurtzel, showed their appreciation by performing several songs, much to the delight of the Board and everyone in the audience. As a special way of recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Board of Education, several district organizations presented certificates representing donations made in their honor to various charitable organizations. "On behalf of the Board, let me thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with a community who shares a common goal: to ensure that the children of Copiague have the tools to become successful and achieve their dreams," stated Board of Education President Laura Gavey.



Musically Inclined

Two student-musicians at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School have been selected for the 2009 NYSCAME/SCMEA Suffolk All-County Music Festival. Elvira Razzano and Jhante Collins will join Suffolk County's finest high school musicians in concert with nationally recognized conductors in their respective performing groups at the 2009 NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Festival concert in November.



Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Coordinator of Fine Arts Jennifer Pierre-Louis, senior Jhante Collins, Choral Director Larry Wurtzel, senior Elvira Razzano, and Principal Albert Voorneveld.

Selection to NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County performing organizations is extremely competitive and is based on a student's ranking and superior adjudication rating at the annual New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo Festival each spring.

Paying it Forward

In honor of the first National Day of Service and Remembering for September 11, members of the Esteem Team at Copiague Middle School organized a "Pay it Forward" Backpack Drive. The students, with the help of their advisor, Maria Ostrofsky, collected used backpacks, which were then cleaned using a 'green' (meaning it's good for the environment) detergent and donated them to members of the middle school community, as well as World of Hope Agency in Suffolk County. The bags were also filled with basic school supplies such as pens, pencils, and folders before being delivered.

"It feels good to help out," said eighth grader Jasmine Dasey. Added seventh-grade student Brett Connor, "It's nice to help other kids who can't afford things like a backpack. It's one less thing they have to worry about."

The Esteem Team is a student club that promotes character education through service-learning projects, and helps to build friendship, self-esteem, and character.



Pictured left to right: Copiague Middle School Dean of Students Stephanie Valeiko, Esteem Team members eighth grader Jasmine Dasey and seventh graders Brett Connor and Amanda Allen, and Esteem Team advisor Maria Ostrofsky.

Artistic Creation

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School senior Anyelo Marte won second place, in the 2nd District of New York under the auspices of Congressman Steve Israel, in the 28th Annual Congressional Art Competition themed, "A Vision of Green." Anyelo created his design during his junior year in art teacher Lorraine Ciccotto's graphic arts class using Adobe Illustrator.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition, which is open to high school students in each member's congressional district. One piece is chosen from each district and displayed in a walkway between the House office buildings and the U.S. Capitol.



Pictured left to right: Coordinator of Fine Arts Jennifer Pierre-Louis, Anyelo Marte, and art teacher Lorraine Ciccotto.

Recognized for Achievement

Jhante Collins, a senior at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, was recently recognized by the Suffolk County Youth Bureau with the Suffolk County Executive's 2009 Youth Achievement Award. In a proclamation received by Jhante, it states that the award recognizes the "invaluable contributions of individuals who give their time, efforts, and talents, without recompense, to overcome unbelievable obstacles in their young lives to come out on the other side and achieve."

Jhante was nominated for the award by school social worker Kelly Morrongoello and was honored at a dinner held on September 17 at Villa Lombardi's.

"You have managed to become a model for your fellow citizens in Suffolk, demonstrating to the rest of us the quality of your character and the strength of your resolve," wrote Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy in the dinner program. "Every community depends on unique individuals who show us how to live life to the fullest. The example you set, especially because of your youth, is a lesson and an inspiration to all of us. By your achievements, you have made Suffolk County a better place to live."



Pictured left to right: Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Social Worker Kelly Morrongoello, Jhante Collins, and Principal Albert Voorneveld.

Success in Summer

This summer, between enrichment camps, remedial classes, prekindergarten, tutorials, and athletics approximately 1,100 students were enrolled in the District's summer school program. At the September 21st Board of Education meeting, elementary and secondary summer school principals Michelle Budion and Jeanette Altruda, respectively, gave a presentation on the summer school results.



Secondary summer school offered 44 full-class sections and 40 tutorial sections for students who didn't need to repeat the entire course, but needed a refresher prior to taking the final exam, and ran enrichment camps such as drama, physical education, computers and art for students in grades 6-8. Eighteen students celebrated August graduations, with 11 receiving a Regents diploma, because summer school offered them the opportunity to successfully complete their high school requirement.

At the elementary level, 398 students were enrolled, a 23% increase from the previous year, including more than 100 prekindergarteners. Students were offered one period of physical education each week and provided with daily breakfast and lunch opportunities. At the end of the summer school, 44% of the English as a Second Language (ESL) prekindergarteners had tested out of the ESL program and would be enrolled in regular kindergarten class.



EXPLORATION SPACE

Copiague Middle School mathematics teacher Melody Cesare was the recipient of a scholarship to attend the Space Academy for Educators at the United States Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama for a weeklong astronaut training course this past June. The academy is a training program for teachers to learn new and innovative techniques to educate their students about science and math. To date, 995 teachers from 34 countries and 49 states have already graduated from the program. Ms. Cesare joined 272 teachers from 19 countries and 45 states, and became a part of the program's Class of 2009.

"In 1986, during my interviews to become a teacher, I was asked what I pictured myself doing 20 years from then; I told them I wanted to be teaching in space, or at least part of the space program," stated Mrs. Cesare. "That didn't exactly come true, but this was a close second. I had the educational experience of a lifetime! It was really a dream come true."

During her weeklong adventure, Mrs. Cesare participated in classroom, laboratory, and field training exercises. She had the unique opportunity to participate in astronaut training, including a high-performance jet simulation, scenario-based space missions, land and water survival training, and state-of-the-art flight dynamics programs.



STAYING ABOVE THE CURVE

Every summer, teachers and administrators from the District collaborate to revise various aspects of the curriculum. The summer curriculum writing projects help ensure the District remains in the forefront of education and provide students with the most up-to-date curriculum available.

This summer, Copiague staff members worked on 18 projects covering a large range of topics. A few of the projects included "Infusing Technology with Earth Science" at the high school level, which will bring the use of SMART Boards (interactive whiteboards), iPods, eboards, Google documents, and laptops into the Earth Science classes. At the middle school, teachers worked on an English Language Arts (ELA)/English as a Second Language (ESL) Co-Teaching model that will support the transition of students from ESL to ELA.

On the elementary level, a revision of the baseline reading assessment occurred. The program was implemented last school year and was revised using teacher input. The "Elementary Baseline Reading Assessment" is a tool used to identify appropriate reading levels for students, monitors their reading growth over time, and causes minimal disruption of classroom time.

"The bar continues to be raised," said Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum Dr. Kathleen Bannon. "In order for Copiague students to compete on a global level, we need to provide the most up-to-date curriculum available."

Dates to REMEMBER

November 16-17

Gr. 5 Social Studies Assessment

November 19

Middle School Musical
7:00 pm

November 23

Board of Education Meeting
7:30 pm

November 25-28

Schools Closed

December 7

Board of Education Meeting
7:30 pm

December 8

Senior-to-Senior Dinner
4:30 pm

STOP, DROP, AND ROLL

Copiague Kindergarteners Learn Fire Safety at Copiague Firehouse

Elementary students from the Copiague School District recently received a lesson in fire safety from the Copiague Fire Department during fire safety month. Kindergarten students were given the opportunity to visit the firehouse and get a tour from several volunteer firefighters.

During the kindergarten visit to the firehouse the students were shown a video, which reinforced fire safety rules including having an escape plan, and taught the correct procedures for "Stop, Drop, and Roll." A firefighter dressed up in his full gear, including oxygen tank, for students to see what a fireman would look like in a fire so that they would not be afraid.

The firefighters also took the time to visit the individual schools to teach the students the importance of fire safety and prevention. The firefighters spoke to the students about the importance of being prepared and alert if caught in a fire. Students were instructed that if they see smoke, smell smoke, or hear the smoke alarm, they are to get outside immediately and that they should not stop and gather belongings during a fire, because belongings are replaceable. They also told the students to speak to their parents about setting up a place where they can meet if they are ever in a situation in which their house is on fire.



Deauville Gardens Elementary School Kindergarten students visited the Copiague firehouse and received a tour from several volunteer firefighters.

Celebrating Peace

In recognition of International Day of Peace on September 21, students at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School created peaceful creations such as acrostic poems and collages depicting what peace means to them. The themes ranged from world peace to enjoying recreational time on the playground with friends.

"We wanted to encourage our students to recognize peace and to instill the importance of tolerance," said Assistant Principal Cynthia Florio, who was instrumental in organizing the day.

Fourth-grade members in the after-school dance program were named Ambassadors of Peace for the day. The students visited the kindergarten classrooms and performed a dance of peace utilizing flags from various countries.



Believe, Achieve, Succeed

For the second consecutive year, Great Neck Road Elementary School held an Educational Pep Rally. Each day, students and staff participated in activities that commemorated education, generated enthusiasm for learning, and promoted school and community pride.

"The purpose of this week is to build excitement about education," stated Principal Joseph Agosta.

Activities that took place throughout the week included a schoolwide team-building event in which physical education teachers William Bennett and Barbara Olsen led everyone through a series of physical activities that promoted teamwork, trust, and cooperation. "We're trying to teach the students that in order to succeed, you have to be well-rounded - healthy body and healthy mind," said Mr. Agosta.

Members of the high school step team and marching band also visited the school to highlight how hard work, determination, and practice can lead to success in high school and beyond. To promote this year's Great Neck Road theme (Read! Believe, Achieve, Succeed), students received a free book and a special sticker imprinted with the theme.



Emergency School Closings

In the event that it becomes necessary to close schools due to inclement weather or an emergency situation, a districtwide automated telephone call will be made to all parents and staff. In addition, the following radio stations and television stations will broadcast the closing of our schools:

WHLI - 1100 AM
WCBS - 880 AM
WBAB - 102.3 FM

WALK - 97.5 FM
WKJY - 98.3 FM
WBZO - 103.1 FM

WBLI - 106.1 FM
News 12 Long Island

Any changes or school closings will also be announced on the district website: www.copiague.k12.ny.us



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Doris Fischer, *2nd Vice President* Michael Greb Henry Johnson
Everett E. Newman III Brian J. Sales

Mr. Charles A. Leunig, *Superintendent of Schools*