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COPIAGUE *Connections*

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



Sun, Fun and School Spirit DURING HOMECOMING



Showing off their Copiague spirit, the community and schools came together to celebrate homecoming on Oct. 19. Kicking off with spirit week activities at the elementary schools and a pep rally at the high school on Friday, students and staff were beaming with school pride in the days leading up to the big game.

Gathering for the parade at Great Neck Road Elementary School, school and community organizations came together to march to Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School. The Copiague Little Ladies cheerleaders and Copiague Youth League football marched alongside elementary school clubs.

The freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes showed off their creativity with different Disney-themed floats including, "Toy Story," "Moana," "Coco" and "The Lion King." Back at Walter G. O'Connell High School, the

Copiague Eagles took the field against the Half Hollow Hills East Thunderbirds. Despite their best efforts, the Eagles couldn't come out with the homecoming win.

The varsity cheerleaders and step team entertained the crowds during the halftime show. The homecoming court from each grade – including homecoming royalty Malik Leftenant and Brianna Gomez – were formally announced and recognized in front of the Eagle's Nest.

Later that evening, the District held its 22nd annual Hall of Achievement induction ceremony, recognizing five alumni who have made positive contributions to both their community and school district. This year's inductees were Anthony Cipriano, Class of 1988; Richard Lynch, Class of 1982; Kelly Mooney, Class of 2000; Nadia Pepe, Class of 2000; and Yaniriz Rodriguez, Class of 1999.

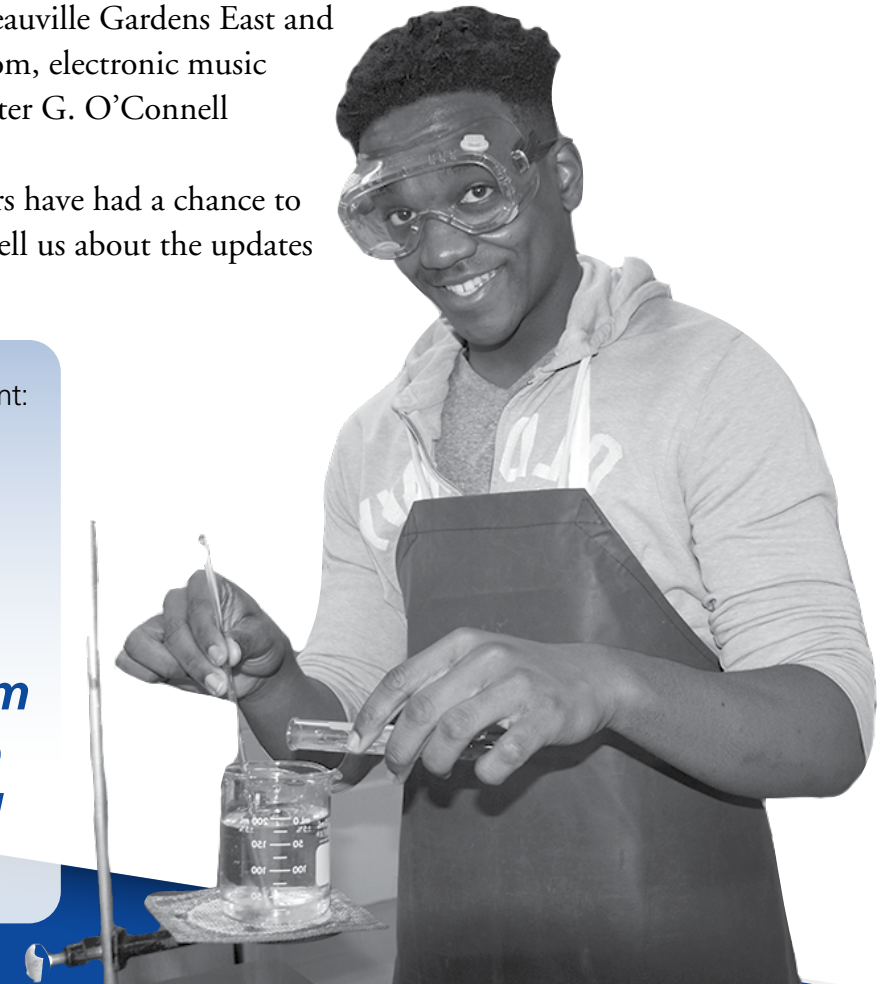
A *Change* for the BETTER

In 2018, the Copiague School District opened its doors at the start of the school year with many changes to its facilities. Throughout the buildings, the renovations, improvements and updates that were part of the 2015 community-approved bond project helped to give the District a modernized look both inside and out. Some of the more notable renovations included a new bus loop at the middle school, the division of Deauville Gardens East Elementary School and Deauville Gardens West Elementary School into two separate schools, a library media center, new dedicated art and music rooms in Deauville Gardens East and West elementary schools, and a new ceramics room, electronic music laboratory and science and chemistry labs at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School.

Now that the students, staff and administrators have had a chance to see the effects of the changes, we asked them to tell us about the updates in their own words. Here's what they had to say:

Erhumwunse Eghafona, AP Chemistry Honors Student:

"Experiments are much easier to engage in due to small individual setups and additional spacing. There's so much more room to collaborate, making the process more efficient and smoother."



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More Than Just a *New Look*

Andy Lagnado, Principal, Copiague Middle School:

"The new bus loop has been fantastic for students because their bus is in the same exact spot every day, and the bus route number matches the parking spot number. In years past, the buses lined up in the order in which they arrived because the driveway was not wide enough for passing to the same spot. This has made the dismissal process much more efficient and, more importantly, less stressful for our students. Further, the buses now leave the middle school in a more timely fashion, allowing them to complete their runs and get to the elementary schools for their dismissals."

Drew Forbes, Fifth Grader, Deauville Gardens East:

"I like that we have more space for art and music, and I love our new library. Art is my favorite subject, and I can go there now on my recess time."



Alyson Ruiz, 11th Grade Art Student:

"The new ceramics room at the high school has really changed the way we approach art. Having all these new materials and resources, along with bigger and improved spaces, has helped us all to grow as art students. Since there are now so many resources, we have the ability to expand our knowledge of the arts."



Jaime Kister, 12th Grade Music Student

"The new music spaces, especially the practice rooms, allow us to now have individualized places to practice. It's so much easier for us and there's less distraction. The new sound walls give us a more realistic quality of sound. There's also so many more resources for us. The new electronic music lab allows us to use technology to create music and to bring those creations to other areas of our academic work. We are not just limited to being musicians; we can use these techniques we learn outside of the classroom, too."

Avery Donovan, Fourth Grader, Deauville Gardens West:

"I like that the music teacher doesn't have to come around with all her instruments on a cart anymore. We now have so many instruments to use in the music room, and the teacher even has her own piano."



Jodi Embleton, Art Teacher, Deauville Gardens East and West:

"Having a designated space to create art has been truly inspirational. We are surrounded by both student and famous works of art, a plethora of supplies and a room full of color. Students are able to work in a variety of materials to create works of art that are sculptural and collaborative. We love our new space!"

Allison Reyes, Science Research Student:

"I like the new science rooms because they are clean, well-organized and are very similar to those in college, therefore they allow me to become comfortable with the environment I will be surrounded by in my future years. Labs are much more efficient now because of the new tables that can be used both for learning and for experiments."



Renee Locker, Science Chairperson:

"The new science labs are a fantastic addition to the Copiague science department. The spacing and structure are just in time to allow students the opportunity to easily implement the New York State Science Learning Standards within our state-of-the-art quad centers in the new chemistry labs. Many rooms are outfitted with retractable-ceiling computer accessibility that offer students the chance to investigate phenomena and explore engineering practices, an integral part of the state's three-dimensional learning initiative."

