

WALTER G. O'CONNELL COPIAGUE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR EARNS *National Merit Scholarship Commendation*

Ceneta Wykowska, a senior at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, was recently named a Commended Student in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. Ceneta received her Letter of Commendation in recognition of her outstanding academic promise based on her Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores.

As a Commended student, Ceneta placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2008 competition. Congratulations to Ceneta for this distinguished honor.



Pictured (left to right): Coordinator of Guidance, K-12 Ralph Borzello, Guidance Counselor Dawn Salegna, Ceneta Wykowska, and High School Principal Albert H. Voorneveld.

SAFETY SUPPORTS *Success*

Thanks to the efforts of County Legislator Elie Mystal, the District received additional funds to support its safety and security initiatives. Prior to the start of school, additional equipment was installed to enhance the safety of students and staff. County Legislator Mystal is shown in the District's security room with Joseph Millan Director of School Safety (center) and high school principal Albert Voorneveld (front). Students in Great Neck Road Elementary School learned first-hand from Legislator Mystal how the walkie-talkies are used in their school.



Did You Know?

- Did you know that two former Copiague wrestlers have gone on to win a National Wrestling Championship and an Olympic Medal?
 - Dean Morrison a 1989 Copiague graduate was the National Wrestling Champ in 1993 while he attended West Virginia University.
 - Noel Loban, 1975 graduate of the Copiague School District participated in the 1984 Olympics and won the Bronze Medal.

A Heartfelt Thanks

The Board of Education and District administration would like to recognize the work completed by the maintenance, custodial, and clerical staff during the summer months in preparation for the opening day of school on September 5.

Through the long, hot days of summer, the maintenance and custodial department completed all interior renovations and cleaning of all the District's buildings on schedule, while the clerical staff prepared all the documents necessary for the first days of school, making for a great start to what is sure to be a promising new academic year.

DISTRICT ACKNOWLEDGES *Staff Achievement*

A Copiague tradition, held during the District's Annual Superintendent's Conference Day prior to the start of school, is the recognition and appreciation of staff members who have achieved a milestone in their service to the school district.

This year the District recognized those who have served for 20 years or more. Deputy Superintendent Charles A. Leunig led everyone down memory lane as he shared songs, TV shows, movies, and celebrities that were most popular over the past 35 years.

In addition to receiving applause and recognition from their colleagues, each person celebrating an anniversary received a token of appreciation from the school district. "Your dedication and commitment to the success of the students in the Copiague School District is commendable," stated Mr. Leunig. "Congratulations on achieving this milestone in your careers."

Congratulations to the following staff members:

20 Years of Service:

Stacy Bach, Roseann Bertuzzi, Ann Marie Bruce, Virginia Colletti, Denise Cordella, Elizabeth DePaolo, Lisa Flores, Jean-Marie Fortunato, Lynda Friedman, Lynne Groveman, Eileen Hollander, Margaret Martinsen, Mary Nolan, Maria Riviello, Julie Walter

25 Years of Service:

Joseph Balvin, Barry Besemer, Robert Donnellan, Jeanette Hubbard, Alice Jankowski, Arthur Koch, Christian Koenig, Denise Raimondi, Regina Velcenbach

30 Years of Service:

Lynn Atlas, Catherine Orso, Jean Rettura, Robert Scully, Penny Wessen

35 Years of Service:

George Grasso, Michael Magnani

Easing the Transition

To help acclimate the incoming sixth graders to the middle school, the Copiague School District continued its yearly tradition of holding a Barbeque and Orientation for students and parents.

"Welcome to the last step of what we hope was a comprehensive program geared to help ease the transition from elementary school to middle school," stated Middle School Principal Andrew Lagnado. "Today is about the kids, to help them get the layout of the building, practice with their lockers, and meet their teachers."

During the orientation, the students and their parents were taken on a tour of the building by their homeroom teacher, given their schedule and

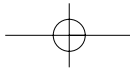
locker combination, and met with fellow incoming sixth graders. To culminate the event, the PTA helped organize a barbeque where students and parents were treated to hamburgers and hotdogs as they discussed the events of the day and prepared for the start of school. Also at the orientation this year, a representative of the Copiague Public Library was on hand to sign students up for a library card if they wished.



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Copiague Connections

Issued by the Copiague Board of Education as an information service to taxpayers and parents



Copiague Public Schools

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

www.copiague.k12.ny.us

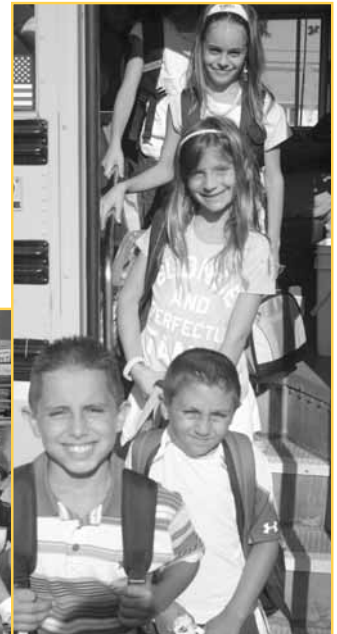
FALL 2007

Welcoming New and Returning Students



Whether attending school for the first time or returning to familiar surroundings, the first day of school is always exciting for both students and staff. On the first day of school, students arrived on time and ready to learn.

The District's record success during the 2006-2007 school year set the bar even higher for future student achievement. Summer curriculum and professional development, along with several mini-camps offered for the first time, were designed to ensure even greater student achievement during the 2007-2008 school year.



Staff Attend Conference

While students attending school were enjoying their last day of summer vacation, the school district's administration and staff were already back in school attending the Annual Superintendent's Conference Day.

Board of Education President Brian J. Sales, along with Board Vice President Laura Gavey and Trustee Rosemary Natoli, were on hand to welcome the staff. "Our ongoing success has been a team effort," stated Brian J. Sales. "Copiague Schools - A Great Place to Learn is much more than just a phrase, it is a statement about our community."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William R. Bolton shared the many successes of the District's numerous summer programs and stressed the important role teachers play as mentors, role models, and

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- Brian J. Sales, Board of Education President

educators. "There can be no excuses, because there is no time for it," stated Dr. Bolton. "In order to be successful, you must start today."

Dr. Kathleen Bannon, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, discussed the numerous ways the District utilizes data to drive instruction. "Effective use of data enables us to identify every student's strengths and weaknesses," stated Dr. Bannon. "Use the data and resources available to become better acquainted with your students."

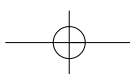
Following the Superintendent's Conference Day, the staff moved on to their individual buildings where they attended workshops and had time to add the finishing touches to their classrooms.



Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

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A MESSAGE*from your
PTA Council President*

Dear Residents,

Children should look forward to going to school each morning – they should see it as a place where learning is enjoyable and there are new things to look forward to each day. Our excellent teachers and administrators do their part to make this a reality. To build on this, we as parents must do our share and work in partnership with our children's schools.

Through the PTA, we support our

schools by bringing new experiences to the children. In recent years, the PTA has sponsored performances and presentations by mathematicians, scientists, storytellers, and musicians. They have also organized book fairs, bake sales, the holiday shop, plant sales and the pumpkin patch, and our very special VIP Day – all wonderful opportunities for our children to share the school experience with their families.

As a member of the PTA, I found myself immediately immersed in a group of adults who all shared a common goal of making school a great place to be. I have made a number of great friends along the way, and

together we strive to support the Copiague Schools' staff and their efforts.

I first joined the PTA many years ago when my own children were in school; thirty years later I am still here and also serve as the President of the PTA Council.

While I no longer have family in the District, I still remain dedicated to this community. I invite you to join us in making a difference in the lives of all the children.

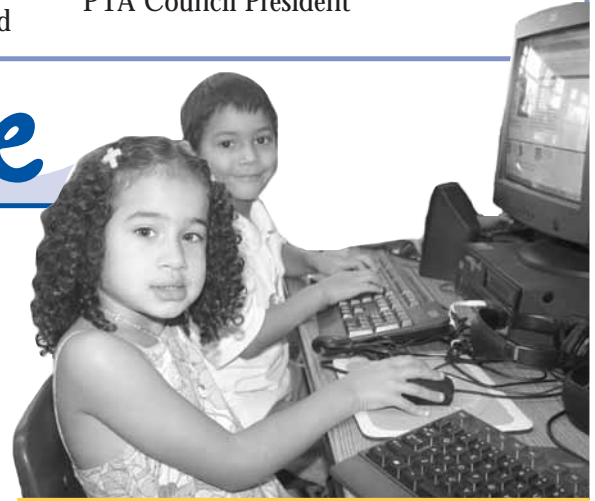
Regards,

Danielle Bontempi
PTA Council President

Wave of the Future

With advances in technology and education evolving and moving forward at a rapid pace, the District takes great pride in the technology integrated curriculum offered to students. Below is just a sampling of what the District provides:

- The District maintains a state-of-the-art computer network consisting of over 1,500 computers and a network operations center linked to all schools.
- Each school is set up with a wireless network, and students are using wireless laptop computers in their classrooms on a daily basis.
- Each department at the secondary level has two laptop carts, digital cameras, LCD projects, and SMART Boards available for instruction.
- Students and teachers have access to more than 60,000 online education videos, including content from PBS.
- Teachers at the secondary level have been provided with wireless laptops for reporting grades and taking period-by-period attendance.
- The District provides free at-home access to Groliers Online. This reference collection consists of grade-level encyclopedias and dictionaries in English and Spanish.
- Each school is set up with state-of-the-art videoconferencing units. Copiague has led Western Suffolk districts in terms of the number of videoconferences conducted for the last three years.
- The District has a districtwide technology committee, as well as individual building technology committees.



"All of the technology that we have is provided in support of student achievement," stated Todd Harris, District Director of Technology. "Our Board of Education, administration, and teachers are extremely supportive of our advances. The District is committed to improving the quality of education through the advanced use of technology."

NEW STAFF WELCOMED DURING ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Prior to the start of school, 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 more than 40 new teachers in attendance during the first day of the three-day orientation, they were welcomed to the District by Board of Education President Brian J. Sales, Superintendent of Schools Dr. William R. Bolton, and Deputy Superintendent Charles A. Leunig.

"We interviewed numerous candidates for the positions for which you are now employed," stated Dr. Bolton. "We hope that you embrace the Copiague School District and are here for many more years to come. Welcome and best of luck during your first year."

During the three-day orientation, the new teachers 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.



Staying Ahead of the Learning Curve

Staff members across the District were busy this summer gearing up for another successful school year. Teachers and administrators worked together to revise various aspects of the curriculum. The summer curriculum writing projects allow the District to provide students with the most up-to-date instruction available.

This summer, due to the District's increased state aid, staff members participated in 34 summer curriculum writing projects that both revised existing curriculum such as elementary mathematics and provided for new elective courses at the middle school and high school.

"The increased state aid this year has helped the District offer more educational options for the students of Copiague," stated Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kathleen Bannon. "The staff development projects that were developed this summer will provide curricula geared towards raising student achievement and performance."

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Dr. Kathleen Bannon

SUMMER *Learning*



For the first time this past summer, the District initiated three, two-week summer enrichment camps in band, art, drama, computers, physical education, and technology for all middle and elementary school students. A three-week summer camp in reading and math was also provided for middle school students.

The reading and math camps were designed to service students in need of remediation and focused on basic reading and math skills. These camps enabled students to maintain and build upon the academic skills acquired in the classroom, and encouraged students to approach the new school year with confidence.

Summer school provided tutorials for students who didn't need to repeat the entire course, but needed a refresher prior to taking the final exam. Summer school also enabled students to repeat a course or take a final exam to avoid repeating the course next year. This summer more than half of the students who enrolled to retake a Regents exam passed the test.

This year was also the first year that the District offered pre-kindergarten summer school. At the end of the program 34% of the English as a Second Language (ESL) pre-kindergarteners had tested out of the ESL program and were enrolled in regular kindergarten class.

INCREASING ACHIEVEMENT *BY INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES*

Last year the District was one of a few districts across the state to receive an increase in state aid. That higher portion of state aid, the highest the District has received in over a decade, was used to offer additional courses and support programs to the students.

"The District is continuing to take tangible steps to bring student achievement to higher levels and develop the necessary skills to succeed not just on New York State mandated testing, but also in the real world," stated Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kathleen Bannon.

At the middle school, students in seventh and eighth grade have been offered the opportunity to take numerous English Language Arts (ELA) classes. Classes such as Drama, Contemporary Literature, Creative Writing, African-American

Literature, and Criminal Scenes for Investigation are being offered to the students as A/B semester-long classes. A "Read 180" class is also being offered. "Read 180" is a partially computerized reading program that works completely at a students level.

"By offering the students an umbrella of ELA courses, they're learning and utilizing all of the ELA tools and concepts in a fun, supportive environment," stated Dr. Bannon. "It affords students the opportunity to explore different aspects of literature, while at the same time gaining extensive knowledge."

At the high school, students have been offered Graphic Arts through the Art Department, Advanced Placement Language Arts and Composition, and Advanced Placement Economics. A Science Research Course has also been implemented

into the curriculum. The science research course will be an extension of the school day and allow students the opportunity to experience in-depth research on topics of their choosing. A new Robotics after-school club has also been offered to the students. The Robotics Club will allow the students to design, engineer, and construct a fully functioning robot.

For the first time this year, the District is offering inclusion classes at the elementary level. The extra state aid has also allowed the District to hire additional social workers. There is now one social worker for each building. In the past, the three elementary schools shared one social worker.

"Everyone from the students to the teachers and administrators are excited for the new opportunities this year," said Dr. Bannon.