



Copiague Public Schools

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

www.copiague.k12.ny.us

FALL 2010

DISTRICT BOASTS RECORD NUMBER *of Advanced Placement Scholars*

The Copiague School District is proud to announce that 27 current and former Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School students have qualified as Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars, the largest number in District history.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program 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. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Ten students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more exams. These students are:

Darryl Bethay (Class of 2010)
Emily Hall (Class of 2011)
Daniel Handy (Class of 2011)
Mariusz Kreciewski (Class of 2010)
Eric Maratta (Class of 2010)

Jacob Ohrnberger (Class of 2011)
Justin Roethel (Class of 2010)
Marta Sulima (Class of 2010)
Monika Sulima (Class of 2010)
Maxwell Woelk (Class of 2011)

Three students qualified as AP Scholar 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.

Congratulations to:

Nicole Mangels (Class of 2011)
Shanice McKenzie (Class of 2011)
Michael Vandermark (Class of 2010)

Fourteen students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing 3 or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are:

Alex Attanasio (Class of 2011)
Jhante Collins (Class of 2010)
Sherley Demetrius (Class of 2010)
Stephanie Diegue (Class of 2011)
Amanda Espinal (Class of 2011)



Eduardo Hernandez (Class of 2010)
Joel Osorio (Class of 2011)
Andrew Preda (Class of 2011)
Elvira Razzano (Class of 2011)
Jessica Schweit (Class of 2010)
Purvi Shah (Class of 2010)
Jessica Tavarez (Class of 2010)
Statia Thomas (Class of 2010)
Lyndsay Vollmer (Class of 2010)



Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

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Copiague School District

School is in Session

School is back in session for students and staff in the Copiague School District. Students returned with enthusiasm, excitement, and in some cases, a little apprehension.

Before immersing themselves in the lessons of the day, students at Deauville Gardens, Great Neck Road, and Susan E. Wiley elementary schools waved goodbye to their parents, became reacquainted with friends they hadn't seen over the summer, and met their new teachers.

At the middle school and high school, it was business as usual as students rotated to their various new classes. Having been through orientations earlier in the summer, the sixth and ninth graders found their way around the buildings with ease.

A MESSAGE from the Superintendent

As you receive this Fall Edition of Copiague Connections, we are about two months into our new school year. As the leaves begin to fall and the weather cools, it's a great time to highlight some of the wonderful activities that are underway, experiences that Copiague students are having, and some important and newsworthy items.

As usual, the Eagle spirit is alive and well all over Copiague, whether it be on the athletic fields, at the annual Kiwanis Car Show, our Tournament of Bands, the Chamber of Commerce International Food Festival, Homecoming, and too many other events to mention during this fall season. 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!**

Featured in this issue are pieces about our summer school reading and enrichment activities, the latest changes in cut scores on the New York State Assessments and the impact of these changes on the District, the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) Initiative, profiles of Copiague's newest administrators and supervisors, our annual Homecoming Parade, festivities and Hall of Achievement Induction, 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 content of this newsletter also shows that despite the economy, through extremely careful planning and use of our precious financial resources, we are still able to move forward with initiatives that will strengthen the educational experience that we provide for the children of

Copiague. As I have stated before, we cannot allow the positive and important programs we offer our children; the lifeblood of what we do with kids, to stagnate or worse yet, diminish. This remains a challenge to accomplish during this time of economic distress across the country. But remain assured that we continue to strive to maximize our community's precious financial resources on behalf of the children of Copiague.

I hope you enjoy the remaining days of fall and the upcoming holidays and hope to see you around town and in our schools.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of Schools

Teachers and Staff Welcomed to the 2010-2011 School Year

While the official start of school was still a week away, the Copiague School District's administrators, teachers, and support staff gathered at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School on the morning of September 2nd for the unofficial start of the 2010-2011 school year and the first Superintendent's Conference Day. After enjoying a breakfast provided by the Food Services Department, the attendees proceeded into the auditorium for some welcoming remarks.

Board of Education President, Laura Gavey, along with First Vice President, Doris Fischer, Second Vice President, Rosemary Natoli, and Trustee, Michael Greb, were on-hand to welcome the new and returning staff. "Two thousand ten was a great year for Copiague and I know 2011 will be even better," said Mrs. Gavey in her opening remarks.

During his speech to the staff, Superintendent of Schools, Charles A. Leunig, shared the many successes and accomplishments of the students and staff that occurred during the 2009-2010 school year, welcomed the newest additions to the Copiague family, and spoke of the challenges that lie ahead. "The needs and challenges of our kids grow every year," stated Mr. Leunig. "However, we have the talent in this room to get it done. No matter what the state or federal government hands us, we will get it done and our students will succeed."

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Kathleen Bannon's PowerPoint presentation also touched upon the challenges faced in the coming year by the dramatic changes to cut scores (percent accuracy needed to pass state assessments). "Our number one District goal is student achievement, and we will work hard to see that happen," said Dr. Bannon. Added Mr. Leunig, "Eleven years ago the State Education Department challenged us to raise our Regents Diploma rate. We rose to the challenge then and we'll do it again."

After the presentation, the staff members returned to their buildings to begin preparing for the first day of school.



Raising the Bar on Assessments

Every year, students in grades 3-8 are required by state law to sit for the State Assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). Following the examinations in May, and prior to the release of the scores to the public, cut scores for these tests were reset according to new proficiency standards by the State Education Department. A "cut score" is the percent accuracy a student needs to achieve in order to successfully pass the exams. For example, a student in third grade had to answer 88% of questions correctly on the ELA in order to be considered proficient. As a result of raising the proficiency level, fewer students met or exceeded the new Mathematics and English proficiency standards in 2010, compared to previous years.

"The bar has been raised," stated Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. Kathleen Bannon. "Prior to the higher cut scores, our students made significant gains over the previous year's test results. We are proud of the strides our students and staff have made on the challenging New York State Assessments. With that in mind, we are working very hard to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. The District continues to look for ways to improve the academic curriculum to better prepare our students for the ELA and Math Assessments."

Copiague's Share of Race to the Top Money **Less Than Equitable**

When New York State was announced as one of the winners in the highly publicized Race to the Top (RTTT) competition, Copiague celebrated along with school districts across the state. This new federal initiative was described as a significant potential source of revenue to be tapped during these challenging economic times.

Recently the District learned there was little cause for celebration. In total, New York State will receive about \$700 million in RTTT funding. Half of that money, \$348 million, will go to the New York State Education Department to fund certain restructuring initiatives, while the other half will go directly to school districts. What we have since learned is that before this funding goes to school districts, \$250 million will go to the New York City Schools, leaving slightly less than \$100 million to be distributed among the remaining approximately 700 school districts across the state. Long Island schools will receive only 2.3% or approximately \$8 million of the \$348 million. Copiague has been informed that our portion of that \$8 million will only be \$189,762, divided over four years. Unfortunately, to receive these funds, the District must

comply with new additional mandates which were included as part of the state's application process. This will require the District to use these funds for restructuring activities prescribed by the state.

It would be fair to say that this additional funding that we and everyone else had hoped would help us in these difficult economic times will not accomplish that goal. To say we are disappointed would be an understatement. The overall inequity in state aid distribution along with numerous unfunded/underfunded state mandates has always been an issue that the Board of Education and administration have dealt with for many years. For Copiague, this small allocation of the total Race to the Top funds brings no relief, and clearly does not provide any of the needed funding to support the quality programs our students deserve and our community expects. Please be assured that the Board of Education and administration are carefully reviewing all of the information surrounding the distribution of these funds and will make every effort to utilize them with the greatest care and efficiency.

District Welcomes New Administrators



Jeanette Altruda – Principal, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School

After three productive years as Assistant Principal, and upon the retirement of Albert H. Voorneveld, Jeanette Altruda has been promoted to Principal of Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School.

Ms. Altruda began her educational career at the Martin DePorres School, which is a private, special education school in Springfield Gardens, Queens that focuses on at-risk youths. There, she was a teacher of kindergarten, grade four, and middle school classes, as well as the technology coordinator. Following five years at Martin DePorres, Ms. Altruda came to Copiague to work as a special education teacher at both the middle and high schools. In addition to teaching special education in Copiague, Ms. Altruda worked as a technology mentor and as a district technology trainer.

She holds a Bachelor’s degree from SUNY Geneseo with a major in Special Education, a Master’s degree from NYIT in Instructional Technology, and a Master’s degree in School District Administration from Stony Brook University.

“I look forward to finding new ways to engage our students and getting them beyond a high school diploma and into college and graduating,” she stated.



Cynthia Florio – Principal, Susan E. Wiley Elementary School

Following four years as an Assistant Principal at Susan E. Wiley, Cynthia Florio has been promoted to Principal. She takes the reins from Michael Kelly, who is now the Principal of Deauville Gardens Elementary School following the retirement of Robert Donnellan. Prior to her appointment as AP, Ms. Florio worked as an ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor at Deauville Gardens for eleven years.

Ms. Florio received her Bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland. She also holds a Master’s degree from Hofstra University in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and received her Professional Diploma in Educational Administration, Leadership, and Technology from Dowling College.

“As Assistant Principal, the experiences and knowledge I have gained are invaluable,” remarked Ms. Florio. “Under Mr. Kelly’s leadership, I learned how to lead effectively and provide the necessary support for both students and staff. I plan on working closely with the staff, students, PTA and community to enhance student achievement.”



Dr. Randee Bonagura – Assistant Principal, Susan E. Wiley Elementary School

Dr. Randee Bonagura joined the District in March as Assistant Principal of Deauville Gardens Elementary School. Due to the retirements and reconfiguration of staff, she is currently working as the Assistant Principal of Susan E. Wiley Elementary School.

“I am looking most forward to working with the dynamic staff, students and families at Susan E. Wiley, and contributing to a successful learning environment,” said Dr. Bonagura. “I hope to contribute to the effective curriculum and extra-curricular events, and to support the staff and students to help them continue their success.”

Dr. Bonagura received her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, her Doctorate in Literacy, and her certification as a reading teacher from Hofstra University. Her school administrative degrees came from the College of New Rochelle. Prior to joining the Copiague family, Dr.

Bonagura worked as an elementary teacher in Massapequa and as the Reading Department Supervisor in Wantagh, where she also taught middle and high school reading and math, as well as gifted and talented classes. In addition, she worked as an adjunct professor at Hofstra University and Dowling College.



Joseph Buccello – Assistant Principal, Deauville Gardens Elementary School

Joseph Buccello joins the District from the Rockville Centre School District as Assistant Principal at Deauville Gardens Elementary School. During his eight years in Rockville Center, Mr. Buccello taught first and fifth grades at William S. Covert Elementary School. He also worked as Co-Director of Community Education for three years. In that role he ran four districtwide programs (Adult Ed., before and after school programs, Regents Review for secondary students, and a weekend enrichment program for elementary students).

“I am very excited to be working in Copiague and Deauville Gardens. I moved to the school district four years ago and have heard wonderful things as a resident from family and friends within the community,” stated Mr. Buccello.

Mr. Buccello earned his Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from C.W. Post, his Master’s degree in Instructional Technology from New York Institute of Technology, and his Certificate in Educational Leadership from Stony Brook University.



Tamika Eason – Assistant Principal, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School

Upon the promotion of Jeanette Altruda to Principal, Tamika Eason has been named Assistant Principal at Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School. Prior to accepting the position, Ms. Eason worked as the Assistant Principal at William Floyd High School for two years. Ms. Eason began her educational teaching career in the Westbury School District, where she worked as an elementary and middle school teacher, afterschool programs administrator, and Dean of Students.

Ms. Eason holds a Bachelor’s degree in English and two Master’s degrees in Elementary Education and Educational Leadership and Technology, all from Adelphi University.



Jeffrey Myers – Assistant Principal, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School

Jeffrey Myers joins the administrative team of Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School as Assistant Principal. Prior to joining the Copiague family, Mr. Myers worked as a social studies teacher at North Babylon High School for sixteen years. While at North Babylon, he also worked for three years as the Dean of Discipline and coached the varsity track, cross country, and lacrosse teams.

Mr. Myers holds a Bachelor’s degree in History and Master’s degree in Social Studies from Stony Brook University. He also holds a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from St. John’s University.

“Successful schools exist when parents, teachers, students, and others view one another as knowledgeable partners in education - a caring community forms around students,” remarked Mr. Myers.



Renee Locker – Science Chairperson, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School

Following thirteen years as a chemistry and biology teacher at Division Avenue High School in the Levittown School District, Renee Locker joins the faculty of Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School as the new Science Chairperson. In addition to her 13 years in Levittown, Ms. Locker worked as a science teacher for 10 years for the New York City Public School system.

“I am excited to be an agent of scientific educational change in the Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School, while simultaneously effectuating 21st century educational trends in science,” remarked Ms. Locker.

She holds her Bachelor’s degree in chemistry from SUNY Old Westbury, her Master’s degree in Instructional Technology, and her Certificate in Educational Leadership from Long Island University, C.W. Post.

Sun Shines on Copi

The sun was shining on Copiague High School celebrated the homecoming on October 9. The celebration began early in the morning as students participated in Spirit Week leading up to the event. All fall varsity teams were announced to the field.

Saturday's festivities were kicked off by the marching band led the annual parade through the town. Copiague High School to the Walter Reese Athletic Center. All grades demonstrated school spirit and pride in their designs, which highlighted the four homecoming cheerleaders showed off their dancing skills. The Grand Marshal was retired High School teacher Mr. [Name].

Following the introduction of the new principal and administration, the Madrigal Concert was performed by the PTA presented to Nancy Martin for her Service and Honorary Life awards recognition.

After the parade, it was on to the homecoming game. The provided music for dancing, games, and social activities. The bleachers were filled to capacity, and the football team took to the field.

Copiague Pride continued to shine as the football team to test their skills against the Half Hollow Hills. The hard work, and determination proved to be the key to the blue and white, as the final score was 14-10.

During halftime, the marching band performed the 2010 repertoire, and the traditional homecoming court and Queen and their court took place. The homecoming court and Queen Radybelle Taveras were crowned, which included freshmen Jalen Archibald, Samuel Keitt and Lizbelle Taveras, and Robelkis Nunez.



Copiasue Homecoming

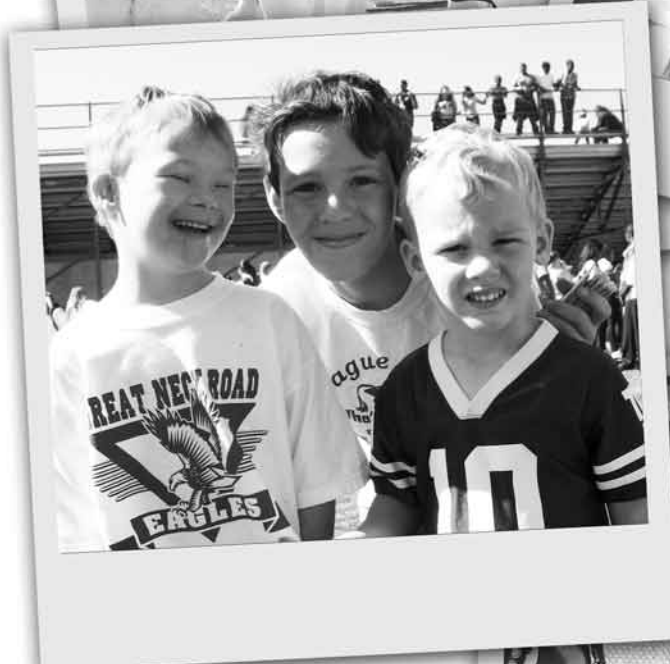
Copiasue as the Walter G. O'Connell
their annual Homecoming on Saturday,
earlier in the week as the students and staff
up to Friday afternoon's pep rally, where the
to a cheering crowd.

ked off in the morning as the high school's
le from Great Neck Road Elementary
Field. Students representing their respective
nd creativity through their unique float
seasons, while the high school steppers and
ng and crowd pleasing talents. This year's
chool Principal Albert H. Voorneveld
f the Board of Education, local legislators,
hoir sang "The Star Spangled Banner," and
ez and Toni Clemmens, the Distinguished
respectively.

o the fair, where a carnival-like atmosphere
and food that everyone could enjoy. The
d it was standing room only when the

shine as the Copiasue Eagles took the field
ollow Hills East Thunderbirds. Practice,
ed the Thunderbirds were no match for the
s Copiasue 18 - HHH East 13.

ng band performed selections from their
introduction of the Homecoming King
ce. Homecoming King Jeremiah Aponte
announced along with their Royal Court,
ibald and Jennifer Ruiz, sophomores
and juniors Muhammad Lewis and



Three Alumni Inducted into Hall of Achievement

With the induction of three members of the Classes of 1970, 1975, and 1976, the Copiague School District's Hall of Achievement proudly boasts 72 members. This year's induction ceremony, which capped off a successful Homecoming, welcomed Patricia M. McMahon, Class of 1975; Major Rudolph J. Purificato, Class of 1970; and Bishop Dr. Curtis S. Redmon, Class of 1976.

"The goal of the Hall of Achievement is to introduce positive role models to our school community," remarked Superintendent of Schools, Charles A. Leunig. "Such models, by their very nature, inspire students to adopt high aspirations. It is our hope that you will take on an active role – either directly or indirectly – in giving back to

future generations of Copiague graduates."

The Hall of Achievement was created 14 years ago in an effort to recognize those graduates of Copiague High School who have succeeded in their careers and lives. Inductees also include those who have distinguished themselves by virtue of their contributions to community and society. The primary goal of the Hall is to build pride for all Copiague graduates: past, present, and future.

The evening concluded with the unveiling of the wall that holds the Hall of Achievement plaques prominently displayed in the main hallway of Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School.

To read more about each inductee, please visit the District's website at www.copiague.k12.ny.us.



LEARNING SKILLS IN THE SUMMERTIME

For many students in the Copiague School District, the conclusion of the school year in late June did not signal an end to their education for the summer. These 169 students in grades six through eight took part in the District's free Summer Enrichment Program. The program offered the students the opportunity to participate in band, music, physical education, basketball, and drama camps for two weeks in July, with the basketball and drama camps extended to four weeks.

In band camp, the students worked together to compose two musical pieces using traditional instruments as well as every day objects such as garbage cans and chairs. They also had the chance to sharpen their musical skills and knowledge, as did the students enrolled in music camp.

The physical education and basketball camps worked on increasing fitness and skill levels. In basketball, the students worked on running drills and playing pick-up games, while in physical education the children participated in such games as kickball, hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, and Capture the Flag.

The drama students tailored their acting skills by reading and performing short plays, learning valuable crew skills – such as lighting and scenery building – and, to culminate their experience, performing "The Dollop" by Susan Cooper for invited guests.

"The Summer Enrichment Program gives our students a break from the grind of the school year," stated Intermediate Summer School Principal Eric Leibowitz. "It also rewards the students who did their job and could not afford to go to camp. The camps are free of charge; the only requirement is students must pass all of their classes during the school year."



Books and Bagels



Over the summer, more than 30 students at Copiague Middle School participated in the school's Summer Reading Program. The volunteer initiative encouraged students to read at least five books and create reports on those books; reports ranged from written essays to art projects. The program was organized by middle school Librarian, Dawn Koziarz and Reading Specialist, Dr. Julie Tedeschi in conjunction with the Copiague Memorial Library.

To celebrate the successful completion of the program, the PTA sponsored a "Books and Bagels" breakfast for the students, and each child received a \$5 gift card to purchase books at the school's book fair. The school also held a raffle for all participants and randomly selected five students to be a "Librarian for a Period" during Teen Read Week in October.

In addition, three students – eighth grader Natalie Korba, seventh grader Adrian Chochorek, and sixth grader Corinne Palin – competed in the Suffolk County Library-sponsored reading contest "Battle of the Books." This contest culminates a summer reading program designed for teenagers entering grades six through nine. In the program, teens competed in a series of trivia contests about novels they have read over the summer weeks leading up to the event.

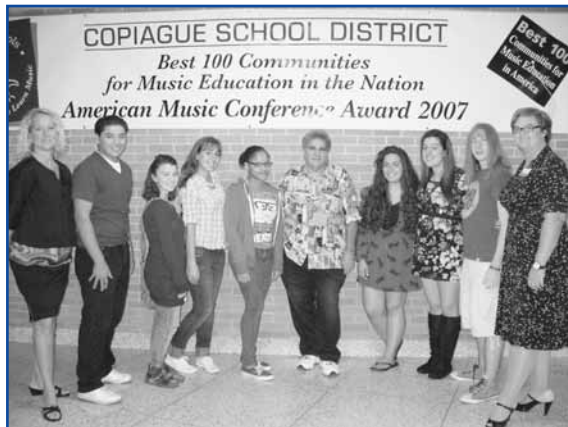
High School Musicians Selected for Prestigious Music Ensemble

The District's Fine Arts Department is proud to announce that out of the thousands of students who auditioned for the All-County festival this year, seven Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School student-musicians have been accepted to perform in the prestigious festival.

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

The District congratulates the following students on this exceptional achievement and wishes them luck during their performances in the festivals:

- Dilara Altuner, Women's Chorus
- Brooke Barbarino, Mixed Choir
- Ramon Carcoma, Mixed Choir
- Matthew Edlind, Mixed Choir
- Shakira Miles, Mixed Choir
- Elvira Razzano, Mixed Choir
- Allison Tamburello, Mixed Choir



High School Principal Jeanette Altruda, Ramon Carcoma, Brooke Barbarino, Elvira Razzano, Shakira Miles, Choral Director Larry Wurtzel, Dilara Altuner, Allison Tamburello, Matthew Edlind, and Coordinator of Fine Arts Jennifer E. Pierre-Louis.



COPIAGUE KICKS CANCER

This fall, when word spread that a member of the Copiague family was stricken with cancer, members of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Girls Varsity Soccer team decided to organize a charity event. Copiague Kicks for Cancer took place Friday, September 24th during the soccer team's match against the West Babylon Eagles.

"Cancer touches many lives. When we heard a member of the Copiague family was affected, we wanted to come together and do whatever we could to help," said junior center-midfielder Brittney Walsh.

During the game, volunteers sold food, beverages, baked goods, raffle tickets, painted faces, and held a soccer ball-kicking contest. "Many teachers and staff members made and/or donated food and more than 10 local businesses donated prizes and gift cards to help raise funds," said Head Coach Christopher Gaudio, who organized the event along with assistant coaches Nick Lorenzen, Lizet Mandriota, and Jessica Talmage. "Additionally, the middle school teachers, organized by Stephanie Valeiko and Jayme Taff, sold t-shirts that were tie-dyed by Laura Johnson."

Overall, more than \$3,700 was raised and donated to the family.

Celebrating Learning

During the third week of September, Great Neck Road Elementary School celebrated education by holding its annual Educational Pep Rally. Throughout the week, students and staff participated in activities that celebrated education and generated enthusiasm for learning.



The week began with a Reading is Fundamental distribution in which all students received a free book to expand their home libraries. Additional activities included performances by the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Drum Line and Step Team. The visits highlighted how hard work, determination, teamwork and practice can lead to success in high school and beyond. In a schoolwide team-building event, physical education teachers William Bennett and Barbara Olsen led everyone through a series of physical activities that promoted teamwork, trust, and cooperation. To culminate the week of activities, the Great Neck Road Dance Team treated students and staff to a performance.

What is Peace?

In recognition of the International Day of Peace on September 21st, select students in various groups at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School worked together with School Social Worker, Angela Greaves, to create an original poem. The students recited aloud their poem, entitled "What is Peace?," during lunch periods to spread the word of peace and acceptance.



Fire Safety

Deauville Gardens Elementary School students recently received a lesson in fire safety from members of the Copiague Fire Department during fire safety month, October. The firefighters spoke to the students about the importance of being alert and prepared if caught in a fire, invited up student volunteers to show the correct procedures for "stop, drop, and roll," and reinforced the importance of properly-working smoke detectors and practicing fire drills at home. A firefighter dressed up in his full gear, including oxygen tank, so that students could see what a fireman would look like in a fire. Additionally, Deauville Gardens kindergarteners visited the firehouse on Great Neck Road to receive a tour of the facility.

Staff Service *Recognized*

The year was 1980, the United States Men's Olympic Hockey Team won the Gold Medal in the Lake Placid Olympics, *The Empire Strikes Back* was in theaters, Queen's "Another One Bites the Dust" could be heard on the radio, and Joann Anderson and Raymond Rebholz began their careers in the Copiague School District.

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 Ms. Anderson and Mr. Rebholz, as well as staff members who have served the Copiague community for 20 years or more.



Congratulations to the following Staff Members:

Twenty Years

Terri Alzmann (Teacher, DG)
Nancy Csorny (Teacher, GNR)
Edward Miller (Security, MS)
Lysa Mullady (Guidance Counselor, DG)
Margaret Murphy (Teacher, GNR)
Carol Vaughn (Teacher, SEW)



Twenty-Five Years:

Margaret (Campbell) Murphy (Teacher, SEW)
Lynne Cook (Teacher, DG)
Cindy Costello (Teacher, SEW)
Linda Grasso (Teacher Aide, HS)
Margaret Grill (Cook Manager, HS)
Linda Herbst (Teacher, MS)
Lois Jones (Account Clerk)
Nina Marchese (Cook Manager, GNR)
Steven Monaco (Custodian, DG)
James Nolfo (Custodian, GNR)
Carole Olsen (Teacher, HS)
Marie Przybyszewski (Teacher, DG)
Alfred Verriotto (Custodian, HS)
Linda Walsh (Teacher, HS)
Jean Zentil (Principal's Secretary, HS)



Thirty Years:

Joann Anderson (Secretary, HS)
Raymond Rebholz (Teacher, DG)

A Sneak Peak to the New Year

Students entering grades six and nine at Copiague Middle School and Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School received a sneak peak of the 2010-2011 school year as they participated in the annual Sixth-Grade and Freshman Orientations and BBQs.

During the orientation and barbecue at the middle school, each of the homeroom teachers gave their students and parents a tour of the entire school so that the students would be familiar with the location of their classes prior to the first day of school. The tours concluded in the students' homerooms, where they were given their new course schedules and locker combinations.



At the high school, students had an opportunity to meet with administrators, receive their schedules, test out their lockers, and participate in a period-by-period walkthrough of their first day. Each orientation also included a barbecue featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, soda and chips. It also gave the chance for parents to join the PTA and register to vote, and students to register for a library card at the Copiague Memorial Public Library.



A Snapshot of Excellence District Hosts Orientation for New Staff Members

The Copiague School District conducted a three-day orientation meeting for new staff members prior to starting the 2010-11 school year. Administrators from the District Office and five school buildings, as well as Board of Education Trustees Michael Greb and Everett E. Newman III, were present to welcome the new staff and speak on behalf of the District.



Executive Director of Human Resources Todd J. Andrews began the orientation by explaining that this meeting was the start of the relationship between the staff and the District. Mr. Andrews emphasized the idea that success in this career is based on positive personal relationships between administrators, colleagues, parents, and most importantly, the students. To better understand this relationship, the new staff members were given two books, *The First Day of School* by Harry K. Wong and Rosemary T. Wong, and *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* by Ruby K. Payne, Ph. D.

"Welcome to the Copiague Family!" proclaimed Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig as he addressed the special group of incoming staff members. He spoke about the tough economic times across the globe, while encouraging the staff to take pride in knowing that they were the exceptional people who were hired by a district that is economically and financially stable. Mr. Leunig explained the relationship between the success of the District and the low staff turnover. "People who come to work here tend to stay," he said.

Mr. Leunig went on to speak about the supportive Board of Education that makes important decisions regarding the District and its students. He emphasized that the sole agenda of the Board is to ensure student success. The result of the Board's efforts has been represented by the students' continued and improved academic achievement.

On day one of the orientation, the staff viewed a slideshow of what Copiague has to offer and participated in a bus tour of the District, which provided them with better insight into the achievements and challenges that the students face. Over the three days, workshops including "What We Believe In," "Setting the Stage for Success," "School Safety and Technology," and "Our Children in Your Hands" were presented by administrators to best prepare the staff for their first day in the Copiague family.

Help Sponsor College Day

In an effort to get students and their parents excited about higher learning and the prospect of attending college, the Copiague School District is continuing its Kindergarten through grade 12 College Planning Initiative – The Road to College. To help support the initiative, the District is selling sponsorship bricks. If you'd like to help sponsor the Initiative please visit the website at www.copiague.k12.ny.us for more information.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Laura Gavey, *President*

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

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