



Copiague Public Schools

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

www.copiague.k12.ny.us

SPRING 2011

Copiague Named to *AP Achievement District Honor Roll*

The Copiague School District is one of only 388 school districts nationwide to be honored by the College Board with a place on its Advanced Placement (AP) Achievement District Honor Roll for opening AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher. New this year, the AP Achievement District Honor Roll nationally recognizes and acknowledges Copiague's success and efforts to expand AP access, performance, and commitment to increasing student achievement.

"In Copiague, we continually strive to offer our students opportunities in which they can succeed," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "Through our K-12 College Planning Initiative we are encouraging students to continue their education at an early age. By offering AP courses to our juniors and seniors they are able to begin the road to college while still in high school."

From 2008 to 2010, Copiague Public Schools has increased the number of students



Offering Advanced Options

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School currently offers thirteen rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) courses for students in eleventh and twelfth grade (sophomores can enroll in World History). The AP Program is a cooperative education endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. Students, while enrolled in high school, can participate in an AP course and receive college credits.

The AP Program at the high school is very strong and diverse in its offerings. The courses include English Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, United States Government and Politics, Psychology, Calculus AB, Biology, Physics B, Chemistry, Macro and Micro Economics, World History, and Spanish Literature.

participating in AP from 132 to 169 while the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher, the score typically needed to earn college credit, from 41 percent in 2008 to 50 percent in 2010.

"Participation in college-level AP courses can level the playing field for underserved students, give them the confidence needed to succeed in college, and raise standards and performance in key subjects like science and math," said College Board President Gaston Caperton. "The AP Achievement List districts are defying expectations by expanding access while enabling their students to maintain or improve their AP Exam scores."

The award was given based on an established list of criteria, including, but not limited to, examination of three years of AP data, from 2008 to 2010, demonstration of an increase in participation in and access to AP courses.

The Class of 2011 knows that it takes dedication, hard work, and teamwork to achieve the dream of attending the college or university of choice. Listed below are colleges and universities that have offered admission and scholarships to the Class of 2011:

Adelphi
Alfred University
American University of DC
Boston College
Briarcliffe College
Buffalo University
Caldwell College
Clarkson University
College of St. Rose

Cornell University
Delaware State University
Dowling College
Drexel University
Fairfield University
Farmingdale University
George Mason University
Hofstra University
Howard University

Iona College
Johnson & Wales
Long Island University
Loyola University of Maryland
Monmouth College
Nassau Community College
New York Institute of
Technology
Newbury College
Northeastern University
Pace University
Penn State University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Siena College
Spellman College
Saint Joseph Connecticut
St. John's University
St. Joseph's College
Stony Brook University

SUNY Alfred State College
SUNY Binghamton University
SUNY College of
Environmental Science &
Forestry
SUNY Maritime
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Plattsburgh
Temple University
The City College of New York
University of Vermont
University of Albany
University of Bridgeport
University of Miami
University of the Sciences
in Philadelphia
University of Tampa
UTI Auto Tech School
Virginia State University

Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Copiague, N.Y. 11726
Permit No. 42

ECRWSS

Resident
Copiague School District

A MESSAGE

from the B.O.E. & Superintendent

Dear Copiague Schools Community Member,

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of Copiague Connections. By now you may have heard the latest round of good news that our June 2010 Regents Diploma graduation rate for Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School has again increased; this time to an all-time high of 87%. Student achievement has continued to climb in many areas, despite the many challenges we face, whether they be economic or otherwise. The reasons for this continuous academic improvement are many-fold: An outstanding teaching, administrative and support staff, a dedicated Board of Education working behind the scenes to ensure we have all the necessary tools to educate the children of Copiague, and a supportive community that values the job that our schools and staff do.

Contained within these pages are a variety of activities and achievements that our students have been involved in over the past several months. Beginning with our Advanced Placement Honor Roll, you will also find features focusing on our annual Legislative Breakfast, substance abuse awareness, charitable efforts and acts of kindness by students, and fine arts performances such as our high school students' participation in the Annual Shakespeare Festival. Each of these featured items continues to make us proud of our students and the programs we are able to offer them.

As you are reading this, the Board and administration, over the past six to seven weeks, have been working hard to build the budget for next school year. As has been the case for the last two years, efforts have been made to achieve structural cost containment while preserving the Board's and the community's shared goal of maintaining programs for children. This continues to be a challenge at the same time our new governor and the state legislature have reduced aid

to school districts for next year. Although we continue to feel the effects of the economic downturn, we have gone through every line of the budget to seek adjustments wherever we can that will help control spending, lower costs where possible and improve efficiency. As this process winds down to a conclusion, please be assured that we remain committed to preserving programs for our children while at the same time protecting the community's interests by bringing forth these programs at an affordable cost to our taxpayers.

As a community we have overcome challenges in the past. We are confident that by working together, Copiague will continue to be a great place to Live, Learn and Work.

Sincerely,

Laura Gavey, President
Board of Education

Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of
Schools

Campaigning for Copiague

More than 200 community residents, staff members and invited guests gave up their free time on a Saturday morning to participate in the Copiague School District's annual Legislative Breakfast. The Board of Education and administration welcomed New York State Senator Owen H. Johnson, New York State Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney, Suffolk County Legislator Wayne Horsley, and a representative from Suffolk County Legislator DuWayne Gregory's office to boast of student and staff accomplishments, while at the same time stressing the significant negative impact reduced financial assistance would create for the District.

"Twenty years ago, when Mario Cuomo was Governor, he drastically cut state aid to school districts. It took Copiague 17 years to recover," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "Since that time, Copiague has made great strides in student achievement. This year, Governor Andrew Cuomo has proposed significant cuts to schools. Copiague simply cannot afford to go backwards."

Added Board of Education President Laura Gavey, "In the last few years, our story has been one of growth and achievement, something that all of us in this room today can be proud of. Providing our students with a well-rounded education with the funding available to us is becoming almost impossible. The Copiague School District that we know today will be different next year, but know that we are not alone."

Following Mr. Leunig's open letter to Governor Cuomo, the politicians in attendance spoke to the audience and gave their take on the budget and current economic crisis being faced by the state. "I know we're talking doom and gloom, but every time I come to Copiague, I get inspired," said Senator Johnson.

During the breakfast, attendees were wowed by a performance from the Madrigal Choir, under the direction of Larry Wurtzel with accompaniment by Gina Occhiogrosso. They also viewed a video presentation, put together by Director of Technology Todd Harris, which highlighted student achievements and the numerous extracurricular and athletic activities available to Copiague students. Nine of the District's Class of 2011 Top Ten, along with their families, were also introduced. Their impressive resumes and career goals are a testament to the education and encouragement they have received.



A DAY AT SCHOOL

On Wednesday, March 23, members of the Copiague Board of Education toured the District and visited various classrooms during a special "Day at School." Throughout the day, each Board member spent approximately twenty minutes observing classroom lessons from kindergarten through twelfth grade. This year, the Board members visited general education, inclusion, bilingual, and ESL classrooms, as well as special classes such as physical education and art.



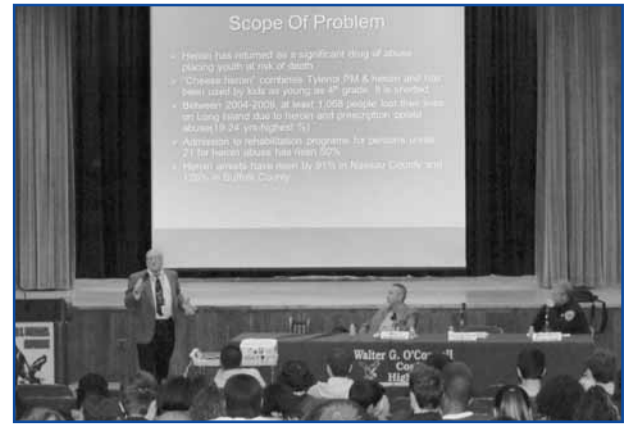
Working Together to Protect Students

In response to a recent resurgence of substance abuse among adolescents, specifically on Long Island, the Copiague School District's Home and School Connection hosted a forum for members of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School senior class. Following a student survey on substance abuse, a committee was formed to create a program that deals openly and honestly with the topic and continues past the initial forum.

Professional experts in the field of drugs and alcohol were invited to share information with the students on the devastating effects of substance abuse. Speakers included Dr. Jeffrey L. Reynolds, Executive Director of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence; Howard J. Riesel, Coordinator of the Adolescent Services Unit from Glen Cove Hospital; and Suffolk County Police Officer George Lynagh.

"Substance abuse is one hundred percent preventable and absolutely treatable," said Dr. Reynolds.

Once the three speakers completed their presentations, the floor was opened up for students to ask questions. Community service resource booths were also set up in the high school lobby for students to receive additional information.



Copiague Students Get **S.T.O.P.P.E.D.**

In an effort to warn students of the dangers of driving while intoxicated, the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School hosted a drunk driving simulation program during health class. The S.T.O.P.P.E.D. Program, which is offered free of charge by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, is geared to inform high school students about New York State's zero tolerance law for drivers under 21 who are caught driving while intoxicated and the consequences they face.

"Drunk driving is becoming an epidemic," Deputy Sheriff Thomas Indence told the students. "If you get caught drinking and driving under the age of 21, you are in big trouble. We want you to live long and full lives. Don't make that mistake."

Following the discussion on zero tolerance, Deputy Sheriffs Indence and Rick Rumplick coached the students as they drove through cone mazes while pedaling a cart and wearing goggles that simulated driving while impaired. Each cone represented a human being, and hitting a cone

meant that a person had been injured or killed as a result of the student's choice to "drive" while impaired. The students also participated in activities in which they were asked to walk heel-to-toe on a straight line and to catch a bouncing ball while wearing the goggles.

"I think this program is great," stated health teacher Carole Olsen. "The kids sometimes believe that they're invincible. This program is very simple and nonthreatening, but it gets the point across."



DECA Students Represent District at State Competition

Seven members of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Distributive Education Club of America (DECA), under the guidance of advisor Louise Curci, placed in the top ten at the State Career Conference held this past March. The Copiague Chapter of DECA won two first-place trophies, a second-place and third-place trophy, and three top ten medals. Four students also earned an invitation to compete in the International Competition to be held this April in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations to:

- 1st Place - Emily Hall - Decision Making Marketing
- 1st Place - Jacob Ohrnberger - Marketing Mathematics
- 2nd Place - Nicole Mangels - Broadcast Advertising
- 3rd Place - Dan Handy - Free Enterprise Economics
- Top Ten Medal - Lauren Marotta - Broadcast Advertising
- Top Ten Medal - Isabel Colon - Wholesale Selling
- Top Ten Medal - Nubia Villatoro - Visual Advertising

Copiague Students Give Their Soles

Members of the Copiague Middle School Builders Club, along with their advisor Maria Ostrofsky, partnered with Give Your Soles and Tom Wicus, the East Coast Director of Operations, to organize a sneaker and shoe drive. Give Your Soles is a charity that collects moderately worn athletic shoes at marathon races across the country and provides them to the less fortunate. In less than one month, the students helped raise 347 pairs of shoes, which they donated to a local rescue mission on Long Island.

"The response from the students and staff has been incredible," said Mrs. Ostrofsky, who first heard about Give Your Soles when she traveled to Las Vegas with her husband Rob, a NYC firefighter, so he could run in the annual Rock 'n' Roll Marathon. "My husband found their booth after completing the marathon and gave me the information believing it would be a good project for the club. Once I spoke with Tom and presented it to the students, the drive just took off."

To thank the students for their hard work, Mr. Wicus visited the students to talk about the company and what their generosity means to those less fortunate. "We're not about secondhand shoes," said Mr. Wicus, "we're about second chances. You never know how a simple act of kindness can change a person's life."



“ET TU, BRUTE!”

Copiague Students Place First in Shakespeare Competition

On Friday, March 11th, sixteen student-actors from Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School, along with their drama teacher, Sylvia Walsh, traveled to Hofstra



University to compete against high schools from across Long Island in the 62nd Annual Shakespeare Festival.

The students performed selected cuts from Julius Caesar, Act II, Scenes I and II, set in a modern day boardroom, and won the top award for best scene. The actors were praised for their mature acting work, character development and ensemble performance. “Our students not only applied outstanding commitment during the rehearsal process but also displayed professional courtesy at the competition as well,” stated Ms. Walsh. “I am very proud of their theatrical efforts and their well-deserved award!”

Teen Tech Week

In March, students at Copiague Middle School participated in Teen Tech Week. The week, which was organized by librarian Dawn Koziarz, encourages teens to use libraries’ non-print resources for education and recreation, and to ensure the students are competent and ethical users of the technologies available to them. Photo caption: Copiague Middle School librarian Dawn Koziarz teaches students how to properly use playaways, a pre-loaded digital audio book.



A Soldier Says Thank You

Earlier this school year, students in Nancy Csorny’s third-grade class at Great Neck Road School organized a “Stockings for Soldiers” fundraiser in which they collected batteries, toiletries, and writing paper and envelopes, as well as other requested items, and handwrote letters to the soldiers.

To thank the students for their generosity, Staff Sergeant Johnathan Schmanski of Alpha Company, 3/214th Aviation Regiment, and his wife, Army Specialist Cathrine Schmanski visited the classroom and presented them with a special surprise. The students were presented with an American flag that had been flown aboard a U.S. Army Unmanned Air System during a combat mission over the skies of Afghanistan on January 9, 2011.

During the visit, Staff Sergeant Schmanski and Army Specialist Schmanski also took the time to speak with the children and answer their questions.



Random Cards of Kindness

Kindergarten students at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School showcased their compassion by becoming “Love Letter Pen Pals.” Organized by the kindergarten teachers, the students created cards filled with uplifting and positive messages of encouragement for children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Once completed, the letters were sent to the organization Love Letters: Random Cards of Kindness, Inc., where they were forwarded to children between the ages of birth and 18 years.

Hearts Are Healthy in Copiague

For a few weeks in February, kindergarten through fifth-grade students at Great Neck Road Elementary School learned about healthy hearts and incorporated jump rope and other heart-healthy activities into their physical education/aerobics program. The unit culminated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart activity, during which students jumped rope, among other activities geared toward increasing their heart rates, in an effort to raise money for the American Heart Association. This year, they were able to raise more than \$3,600 for the American Heart Association.

The event, which was organized by physical education teachers William Bennett and Barbara Olsen, taught the students about leading a healthy lifestyle, including eating right and exercising.



BUILDING BIRDHOUSES

Birds in Copiague will remain well sheltered, as the District continued its partnership with Home Depot's Kids Workshop Program to build birdhouses. For more than ten years, Home Depot associate Jim Gilchrist has traveled throughout the District visiting second-grade classrooms to construct the birdhouses.



Home Depot provides the tools and materials needed for the students to assemble and complete their houses. The Workshop Program allows students the opportunity to practice following instructions, further develop their hand-eye coordination, and work cooperatively in small groups. Under the careful supervision of adult volunteers, the students, all wearing their own bright orange Home Depot aprons, sanded, glued and nailed individual pieces of wood to make their birdhouses.

On one of his last visits to the District this year, Mr. Gilchrist went to the Deauville Gardens

Elementary School. During this special visit, a few seniors from Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, who are also graduates of Deauville Gardens returned to help the second graders build their birdhouses, and to reminisce on when they built their own.



UND RICT *the*

Celebrating 100

On Wednesday, February 16, kindergarten and first-grade students in the Copiague School District celebrated their One Hundredth Day of School. Throughout the day, the students and their teachers participated in numerous mathematical, ELA, and artistic activities that revolved around the number 100.

As a special treat for the 100th Day of School, the kindergarteners in Natalia Brite's class at Deauville Gardens Elementary School traveled through time and dressed as they might look 95 years from now, when they turn 100.



Copiague Students Visit Senior Center

Dressed in their best red and pink ensembles, members of the Copiague Middle School visited the Tanner Park Senior Citizen Center to celebrate

Valentine's Day. During the visit, the students made Valentine's Day cards, distributed flowers, and learned how to country line dance. The Builders Club is a student organization that encourages its members to plan and work on various community service projects to help communication skills, values, teamwork and character.





“The Phantom” Comes to Copiague



Broadway’s longest running show, *The Phantom of the Opera*, which tells the love story between Raoul, the Viscount of Chagny (Matthew Edlind), Paris Opera House singer Christine (Dilara Altuner), and the disfigured Phantom (Dominic Gaudio), hit the stage at Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School for three nights in March.



The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, which is based on Gaston Leroux’s French novel *Le Fantôme de l’Opéra*, wowed audiences with its Broadway-like production quality, stunning costumes, and pitch-perfect vocalists. The musical was directed by Gina Occhiogrosso and included support from Assistant Director Michelle Budion, Choreographer Sylvia Walsh, Costume Designer Meredith Wanzer, Set Designer Lauren Lefkowitz, and Pit Conductor David Abrams.

Creating Awareness Through Art

This year, the Copiague School District teamed up with the Knights of Columbus to sponsor a “Substance Abuse Art Poster Contest” for ages 8-14. Congratulations to Deauville Gardens fifth graders Isabel Febo and Ayanna Fields and Copiague Middle School seventh-grade students Richard Saintil and Daniel Apolinario. These students each received a \$100 savings bond and certificate from the Knights of Columbus.



SkillsUSA

Two Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School and Wilson Tech students, Megan Memije and Peter Tejada, captured top honors at a recent SkillsUSA competition held at Farmingdale State University. Megan, a video production student, won first place in TV and Video Production, while Peter, a builders’ trade student, placed second in Carpenter’s Assistant. The competitions required students to demonstrate the skills they had learned in their respective Tech programs.

A Popular Night of Music

For one night only, student-musicians at Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School showcased their musical talents for family, friends, Board



of Education members, district administrators and staff during their annual POPS concert.

“The POPS concert is always one of our favorite nights,” remarked Principal Jeanette Altruda. “We’re offered the wonderful opportunity to see the various talents of our students.”

The concert band, conducted by Band Director John Wevers, started off the night with a bang by performing a medley of Journey’s greatest hits. Mr. Wevers also took to the stage with members of the jazz band as they performed three selections for the audience, “La Virgen de la Macarena,” “Peg,” and “MacArthur Park.”

The choral group, backed by professional musicians, including music teachers Larry Wurtzel and Gina Occhiogrosso, began their portion of the concert with War’s 1975 hit, “Low Rider.” In addition, the choir members performed such numbers as Roy Orbison’s “Pretty Woman,” Keri Hilson’s “Pretty Girl Rock,” and Aretha Franklin’s power anthem, “Respect.”



Copiague Honors Winter Athletes

The Booster Club at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School continued their tradition of sponsoring an awards dinner following the conclusion of each athletic season to honor the hard work and dedication of the student-athletes.

Throughout the night, coaches sang the praises of the students' commitment both on the field and in the classroom. Individual honors were given to the most valuable and improved players on the team, as well as a special coaches' award presented to the student who went above and beyond for the entire team throughout the season. A Golden Eagle award was also given to a student on each team who had the highest cumulative grade point average for the season. For the winter season, Allison Barz (Cheerleading), Ashley Baker (Girls Bowling), Justin Boone (Wrestling), Avery Hodges (Boys Bowling), Domyae Ivory-Byrd (Girls Basketball), Gregory Lane (Boys Basketball), Jessica Murphy (Girls Winter Track), Amber Perrier (Step Team), and Maxwell Woelk (Boys Winter Track) were awarded the Golden Eagle.

As in dinners past, Board of Education Trustee Brian Sales continued his annual presentation of a slideshow featuring photos of all of the teams in action.



Sprinting to States

For the first time in school history, a member of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Girls Winter Track team qualified for two events at the New York State Public Schools' Winter Track Championships. High School junior Janel Francis placed sixth in the long jump and in the top 15 for the 55-meter dash. Additionally, for the first time in ten years, a member of the Boys Winter Track team qualified to participate in the state championships. Senior Jarrick Ambrose was part of the Section XI inter-sectional relay team that placed second in all of New York State. Chris Gaudioso coaches Janel and George Schroeder coaches Jarrick. John Sack is the assistant coach for both the boys' and girls' teams.



Winter Sports Wrap Up

Sport	Name	Grade	Award
Boys Winter Track	Jarrick Ambrose	12	All-League, All-County
Boys Basketball	Jeremiah Aponte	12	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Jonathan Argueta	10	All-League
Girls Winter Track	Ashley Arquer	10	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Jeyson Ayala	11	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Michael Benson	11	All-League
Var Wrestling	Clint Boone	12	All-League, All-County
Var Wrestling	Justin Boone	11	All-League
Boys Winter Track	DJ Brown	10	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Justin Brown	11	All-League
Boys Basketball	Davine Clinton	12	All-League
Girls Winter Track	Druscilla Dickson	12	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Tyrell English-Foulke	10	All-League
Var Wrestling	Marcus Evans	12	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Randy Fernandez	12	All-League
Girls Winter Track	Janel Francis	11	All-League, All-County
Boys Winter Track	Desmond Guidroz	11	All-League
Girls Bowling	Tiffany Harris	12	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Ezequiel Hernandez	12	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Wayne Johnson	12	All-League
Boys Basketball	Michael Mathis	11	All-League
			Honorable Mention
Girls Basketball	Cypher McCloud	11	Rookie of the Year
Boys Basketball	Philip Page	12	All-League, All-Conference
Boys Basketball	Wade Richardson	12	All-League, All-Conference
Boys Winter Track	Rolando Rowe	12	All-League
Boys Winter Track	Terrick Simms	12	All-League
Girls Basketball	KellyAnn Sullivan	12	All-League
Var Wrestling	Jeff Urbina	10	All-League
Var Wrestling	Jesse Ventura	10	All-League
Girls Basketball	Raven Walker	12	All-League
Boys Bowling	Tyler Webster	9	All Division
Girls Basketball	Chelsea Williams	12	All-League, All-County
Boys Winter Track	Maxwell Woelk	12	All-League

Honored for Exemplary Sportsmanship

The Copiague School District is pleased to announce that three teams have been commended by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for having best exemplified the spirit of sportsmanship during the fall 2010-2011 sports season.

The promotion of good sportsmanship is one of the major goals of NYSPHSAA, which recognizes schools annually for their commitment to building exemplary sportsmanship programs. A sportsmanship committee established by NYSPHSAA selects teams for this prestigious distinction.

Congratulations to the following teams: Varsity Wrestling, Junior Varsity Boys Basketball, and Seventh-Grade Boys Basketball.



Booster Club Honors Women in Sports

To commemorate National Girls and Women in Sports Day, the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Booster Club presented a plaque to Cindy Ricci, an active member with the Copiague Youth League, for her many years of dedicated service and contributions to the young women of the Copiague community. The National Girls and Women in Sports Day is celebrated in all 50 states as a way of honoring the achievements and encouraging the participation of girls and women in sports.



Dates to REMEMBER

May 9

Public Hearing - West Cafeteria of Middle School 7:30 pm

May 17

Budget/Trustee Vote
Great Neck Road School
10 am-10 pm

May 31

Hall of Achievement Forms Due

May 30

Memorial Day Weekend
Schools and Offices Closed

June 24

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague
High School Graduation

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER TO VOTE

It is important that you play an active role in deciding how your child will be educated. Continuous voter registration is available in the office of the District Clerk from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, when school is in session, for both the Copiague School District and Copiague Public Memorial Library. For more information, contact the District Clerk at 842-4015. Residents who have voted or registered at any Annual or Special School District meeting or election held within the last four (4) years, or have voted at a general election or have been registered with the Board of Elections of Suffolk County within the last four (4) years, are eligible to vote. The last day to register for this vote is Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

If you would like to register to vote, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be 18 years of age or over
- Be a resident of the Copiague School District for at least 30 days prior to the voting date.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots are available at the Office of the District Clerk and must be completed and returned at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION MAY 17, 2011

Hall of Achievement Forms Now Available

The Copiague Hall of Achievement was created in an effort to recognize graduates of Copiague High School who have succeeded in their careers and lives. Inductees may also include those who have distinguished themselves by virtue of their contributions to community and society. The goal of the District's Hall of Achievement is to introduce positive role models to the school community. By their very nature, inductees to the Hall inspire students to adopt high aspirations. District residents should have already received a Hall of Achievement nomination form. If you know someone who meets the criteria, fill out and return the nomination form no later than May 31, 2011.

Family Literacy Night



Recognizing the importance of not only teaching literacy in the classroom, but also expanding it to the homes, Susan E. Wiley Elementary School hosted a Family Literacy Night for children and families in grades two through five. The students in second and third grade were each given a book in the "Geronimo Stilton" series, where the main

character travels throughout the world, while the fourth and fifth graders received a book in the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series. Each group was then offered the opportunity to create their own stories. The second and third-grade students visited different stations, where they were asked to read and write about Egypt, Paris and the Australian Outback. The fourth and fifth-grade students constructed their own stories in the style of the "Wimpy Kid" novels.

Making the Right Choices

Members of the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club at Copiague Middle School were given the opportunity to hear an interesting and inspiring presentation by Rescue Ink. Organized by SADD advisors Marissa Perlongo and Jen Palazzo, Rescue Ink, an organization that saves animals from abusive situations, rehabilitates them, and tries to place them in caring homes, discussed the importance of giving back to the community and making good choices in life.



Safety First

To increase the safety of our students walking to and from school, a crossing guard post has been added at the corner of Reith and Great Neck Road, just north of Sunrise Highway. Middle School administration worked jointly with Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, Director of School Safety and Security Joseph Millan, and the Suffolk County First Precinct to add the new post. "Our students safety is always a priority," said Andrew Lagnado, Middle School Principal.

Investigating Non-Resident Students

Over the past few years, the District has increased its investigations on non-resident students enrolled in the District, which has led to the removal of more than 140 students in the last two years alone.

"By following this process we are trying to help people; at the same time, one has to be a resident of the Copiague School District to attend our schools," stated Executive Director of Student Services Karen Sheridan, who also heads up the residency committee.

Should the District determine that a student does not live within its borders, which can be discovered in numerous ways such as

undeliverable mail, anonymous tips, and observation, the building principal sends a letter and gives the parent or guardian two weeks to respond with his or her proof of residence. If the notice is not acknowledged, Mrs. Sheridan sends a second letter stating that the residents in question have two weeks to meet with her; otherwise the student will be removed from class. Additionally, the residency committee meets every two weeks to review and discuss ongoing investigations.

"This is an ongoing process and we have to be respectful in it, but we also have to take it seriously because our resources should go to the students who live in this community," said Mrs. Sheridan



Copiague Public Schools
A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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