



COPIAGUE. Connections

COPIAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

Summer 2013

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Hats Off *to the Class of 2013*



With mortarboards in hand ready for launch, the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Class of 2013 waited for Principal Jeanette Altruda to pronounce them graduates, thus completing their educational careers as Copiague Eagles.

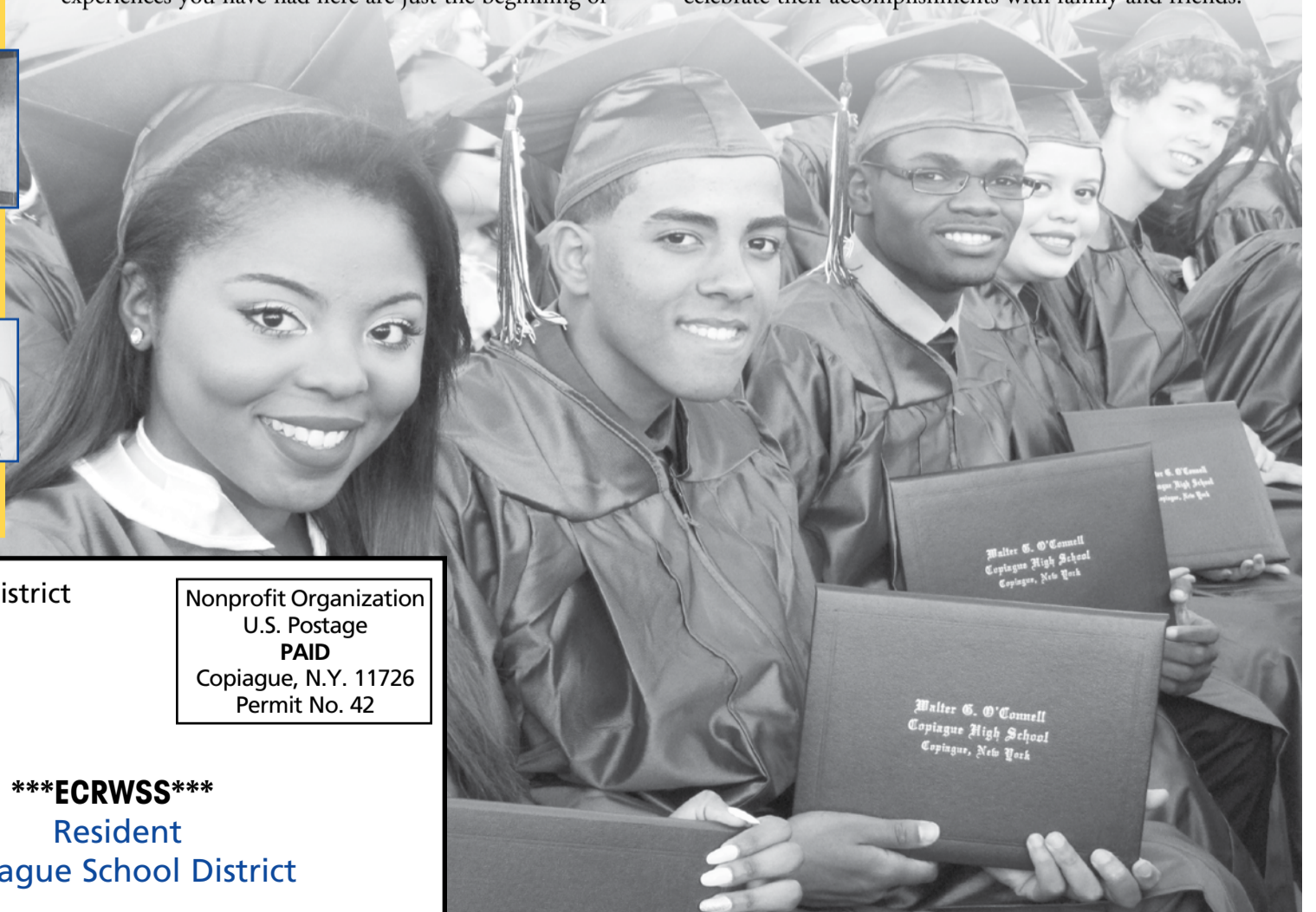
Leading up to that final moment in the June 21 graduation exercise, Board of Education President Michael L. Greb, Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, Mrs. Altruda, Valedictorian Robert Gioia, Salutatorian John Romano and Student Council Co-Presidents Jessica Pearson and Madison Swenton delivered speeches filled with hopes, dreams and sage advice, assuring the graduates that they were prepared to begin the next stages of their lives.

"Today we understand that high school graduation is not the culmination of a lifetime's work – in fact, the experiences you have had here are just the beginning of

many more to come," said Mrs. Altruda. "Use this great achievement as a foundation for a vast and rich life, full of wonderful experiences that inspire you to continually grow and develop."

Added Mr. Leunig, "When I say that you are our future, it may seem like an empty cliché, but this is a fact. You are our future and what you make of your lives beyond these doors will impact all of us. In addition to your own personal successes that you will go on to achieve, we hope you will contribute to the greater good of our society and our world."

Following the turning of the tassels from left to right and the traditional tossing of the caps, the Walter G. O'Connell Class of 2013 marked their last moments as a class as they marched in recession off the football field to celebrate their accomplishments with family and friends.



Copiague School District
Copiague, N.Y. 11726

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A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

I hope the receipt of this newsletter in your mailbox finds you enjoying a relaxing summer. As I reflect back on the school year just completed, it is with great pride on all that was accomplished by our students and staff. Of course this year, just like the past several years, our pride and these accomplishments were tempered by the fact that our school district, the community of Copiague, and the rest of the state and country continued to struggle economically.

Despite this, Copiague students continued their upward trend in academic achievement. This year, as in previous years, we were able to maintain our highest Regents diploma graduation rate ever, 93 percent, for students attending Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School. We saw increased student and staff participation in clubs, other co-curricular activities, the arts and sports. Our teachers, administrators and other staff members worked very hard every single day to make a difference in the lives of the children and help them realize their potential. With the support of the Board of Education and community, our school district has been able to continue to provide the stability in programs for children that these challenging times require.

This past May, our residents showed their confidence once again in our schools by overwhelmingly approving the 2013-2014 school budget with a 69 percent passage rate, which is significant. As with previous budgets, the Board of Education and administration struck the necessary balance between maintaining important programs for children and recognizing the interests of our taxpayers.

This newsletter highlights but a few of the many, many accomplishments of our students during the 2012-2013 school year. Features like our annual elementary school field days, a variety of community service initiatives, and Honor Society inductions at both the middle school and high school round out this issue, which culminates in our annual moving up ceremonies at the elementary schools and middle school and, of course, high school graduation.

I would also like to draw your attention to a letter published in this edition from the Board President, Michael Greb, and me that outlines some efficiency and enforcement changes regarding bus transportation for eligible students. Copies of this letter will be mailed to households and posted on the District's website as well over the course of the summer.

After taking a few minutes to review the various features and news pieces, I believe you will agree that we have great kids in our community and that Copiague continues to be a "great place to live and learn." I hope you enjoy these summer months with your family and friends. I also look forward to seeing you this fall as we begin the new school year and make our schools the best they can be for the children of Copiague.

See you in September!



Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of Schools

Recognizing Character and Talent

Prior to the start of their final meeting of the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education hosted their biannual Student Recognition Awards ceremony. The event, which honors students for their outstanding achievements, is a way for the Board to recognize excellence and the successes of students in the Copiague School District. At the ceremony, 24 students were honored and each was presented with a plaque acknowledging his or her accomplishment.

The following students were selected for recognition: Deauville Gardens East: Andrew Falco and Steven Heckman; Deauville Gardens West: Anahis Rodriguez, Klara Thelusma and Michaela Wagner; Great Neck Road: Ivana Agyemang-Barimah, Taniya Ambrose and Nicholas Anselmi; Susan E. Wiley: Joseph Diaz, Kaley Guerriero, Brandon Parbhoo and Victoria Renick; Copiague Middle School: Yanneris Batista, Jessica Gomez, Nicole Mikolajczak, Abigail Romero, Owen Rosenberg, Samantha Sanchez, Franklin Tejada and Arlene Taveras; Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School: Casey Mahan, Tania Reyes, Fernando Soto and Bernard Timberlake.

Also recognized prior to the Board meeting were the newest additions to the Superintendent's Art Gallery. For the past 17 years, the Superintendent's Art Gallery has been a way to celebrate students' achievements, creativity and hard work. All of the artwork, specially chosen by Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, has been framed and will be hung throughout the district.

The following students' pieces have been placed in the 2012-2013 Superintendent's Art Gallery: Deauville Gardens East: Anthony Fattoruso; Deauville Gardens West: Jaden Gayle; Great Neck Road: Jarrett David, Larisa Gutierrez and Ariana Torres; Susan E. Wiley: Robert Annan, Joshua Flores and Blanca Reyes; Copiague Middle School: Cristian Dilone, TeAnna Flynn, Yasin Khan, Nayanna Kirk, Rayquan Maxwell, Berenice Nunez and Casey Roethel; Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School: Maury Batista, Yerlyn Caba-Garcia, Joshua Galan, Joseph Garguilo, Nicolette Giordano, Michael Libertella, Stephanie Marte, Kayla Rosario, Jennifer Sanchez, Anna Tsar, Mark Willnauer and Julia Woelk. Additionally, three students – Jarrett David, Cristian Dilone and Nicolette Giordano – received \$100 each from the Copiague Teachers Association for having their art pieces chosen as the winners of the Fine Arts Festival, which was held during the May budget vote and trustee election.

DEDICATED AND COMMITTED

Prior to the June 3 Board of Education meeting, the Board held a special reception to honor retiring staff members, as well as administrators and teachers who received tenure. "This is one of my favorite nights of the year, as we take the time to recognize and congratulate our retiring and tenured staff," said Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig.

To begin the ceremony, each building principal spoke a few words of praise over each newly tenured staff member, with Mr. Leunig congratulating the two principals who received tenure.

The District congratulates the following staff members for being granted tenure:

Jeanette Altruda, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Principal
Cynthia Florio, Susan E. Wiley Elementary School Principal
Tamika Eason, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Assistant Principal
Jeffrey Myers, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Assistant Principal
Alison Gangemella, Great Neck Road Teacher
Marilyn Gutierrez, Great Neck Road Teacher
Carly Lamson, Deauville Gardens East/West ESL Teacher
Laura Macchio, Susan E. Wiley School Psychologist
Aglaed Macredo, Copiague Middle School Foreign Language Teacher
Joseph Mannix, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Special Education Teacher
Claudia Millan, Susan E. Wiley Teacher
Natasha Murray, Copiague Middle School Math Teacher
Colleen Ochotorena, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Social Studies Teacher
Samantha Pedagno, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School ESL Teacher
Jennifer Pierre-Louis, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Music Teacher
Ashley Price, Deauville Gardens East Teacher
Alison Stritzl, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Social Worker

"On behalf of the entire Board, it was our pleasure to see, review and approve your recommendations for tenure," remarked Board President Michael Greb. "Thank you for making the Copiague school community that much stronger."

Following the tenure ceremony, the Board and administration honored 323 years of dedicated service to the Copiague schools. Each retiring staff member was presented with a plaque and letter of commendation from Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The District congratulates and offers best wishes to the following retiring staff members:

Margaret Campbell Murphy, Susan E. Wiley Teacher, 28 years
Maureen Christie, District Mail Clerk, 25 years
Emily Garcia, District Principal Stenographer, 8 years
Lynne Groveman, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Special Education Teacher, 26 years
Janet Guzowski, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Social Studies Teacher, 21 years
Lois Jones, District Account Clerk, 28 years
Christian Koenig, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Special Education Teacher, 31 years
Jacqueline Liverpool, Copiague Middle School Registered Nurse, 12 years
Paul Mendolia, District Driver Messenger, 16 years
Denise Raimondi, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Science Teacher, 32 years
Suzanne Scotti, Deauville Gardens East/West ESL Teacher, 11 years
Donna Thaler, Susan E. Wiley registered Nurse, 32 years
Roseanne Wilson, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School English Teacher, 34 years
Carol Ann Wittmer, Susan E. Wiley Clerk Typist, 19 years

"Thank you for your years of service to our school, community and students," said Mr. Greb. "Enjoy your retirement – you're going to love it!"



MOVING ON TO HIGH SCHOOL

Copiadue's eighth-grade students, along with members of the Board of Education, administration, their parents and teachers, were filled with pride and excitement during the Copiadue Middle School moving up ceremony. The students bid farewell to the middle school during the event, which was held on June 20 in the Walter G. O'Connell Copiadue High School gymnasium.

"This is an incredibly special eighth-grade class," said Principal Andrew Lagnado. "As a group, you are very cohesive and you support one another. As individuals, you all bring different personalities and abilities to the table. As you enter this next phase of your educational and adolescent lives, be sure to remember to stay involved in all of the positive things that are offered at the high school. Stay motivated, focused and goal-oriented."

Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig added, "The bar is now set higher for you. We expect you to go on to greater accomplishments over the next four years and then you'll be back here four years from now as the Class of 2017 of Walter G. O'Connell Copiadue High School. We are proud of each and every one of you. Congratulations!"

During the ceremony, the audience also listened as Valedictorian Mikayla Angel and Salutatorian Tomasz Solecki spoke about their years at the middle school, their future at the high school and beyond. Following the presentation of diplomas, the class came together one final time as they proceeded out of the high school gymnasium, preparing to return in September.



Moving Up TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

To celebrate the successes and accomplishments of their fifth-graders, as well as mark the end of their elementary careers, the District's four elementary schools – Deauville Gardens East, Deauville Gardens West, Great Neck Road and Susan E. Wiley – hosted moving up ceremonies.

Parents, staff, district administrators and invited guests proudly attended the ceremonies, held at the individual schools, where the students were recognized and presented with awards for their outstanding academic achievements. In between the presenting of awards, the fifth-graders demonstrated their talents by entertaining the audience with special musical selections.

Celebrating their first moving up ceremonies were Deauville Gardens East and West. Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig spoke to the audiences at both events. "Congratulations to the Class of 2013 on your successful completion of elementary school," he said. "This is a wonderful day full of anticipation, excitement – and the thought of becoming sixth-graders and figuring out the combination on your locker! You'll be fine!" He added, "It's also a time for celebration and reflection on the friendships and lifelong connections you've made here. We're very proud of your accomplishments. Your successes came from tireless work and dedication. We have every expectation that you will continue these successes at the middle school and – a little more than three years from now, if you can imagine – at the high school! Enjoy every moment and take advantage of everything the middle school has to offer."

Continuing Mr. Leunig's theme of taking advantage of opportunities, Associate Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bannon spoke at Great Neck Road and Susan E. Wiley. "Everyone sitting in this room can be whatever they choose to be," she encouraged the graduates. "However, you can't do it by sitting back and letting life pass you by. You have to be active and involved. You have to try new things. When you get to the middle school, join teams or clubs or groups that interest you. Don't be someone who looks back on their lives and says 'I should have' or 'I wish I had.' You all have potential to be whatever you want to be. I encourage you to make the most of what the middle school has to offer you."

Following the presentation of diplomas, the newest classes of elementary school graduates gathered with parents, family members and friends to take time and rejoice in their accomplishments.





Field Day Fun

Throughout the month of June, elementary students from the District showcased their athletic abilities and good sportsmanship for parents and family members as they participated in their schools' field day events.

At Deauville Gardens East, Deauville Gardens West and Susan E. Wiley elementary schools, students in kindergarten through second grade participated in noncompetitive activity stations including relay races, hula hooping and potato sack races, while the third- through fifth-graders competed against one another in similar activities, allowing the older students to highlight their competitive spirit, team unity and good sportsmanship.

Wearing grade-level T-shirts donated by the PTA, the entire student body at Great Neck Road Elementary School spent the day of June 12 rotating through activity stations including basketball and soccer shootouts, T-ball, and relay races.

Physical education teachers Wendy Hrzich, Barbara Olsen and John Sack (Deauville Gardens East and West); William Bennett and Rachel Cone (Great Neck Road); and Pam Atlas and Anthony Cipriano (Susan E. Wiley) coordinated the field day activities, which highlighted what the students learned in class throughout the school year.



Copiague Students Give Their Soles

The Copiague Middle School Builders Club and adviser Maria Ostrofsky partnered with the New York City Bowery Mission, which serves homeless New Yorkers, and Give Your Sole, a charity that provides moderately worn athletic shoes to the less fortunate, to organize a shoe drive. During the six-week shoe drive, the student organization collected 550 pairs of shoes.

To thank the students and collect the shoes, GYS East Coast Director of Operations Tom Wicus and Matt Krivich from the Bowery Mission visited the middle school. Mr. Wicus discussed GYS and its mission, and informed the students that through their three-year partnership, the Builders Club has collected more than 1,500 pairs of shoes for the charity.

"This is a great charity," said Mrs. Ostrofsky. "Many people, at one point in their lives, may be down on their luck and in need of a little assistance. This drive allows our students to help those less fortunate, while not placing a large financial burden on those who donate."



Readers Theater

Showcasing their reading comprehension, listening and acting skills, first-graders in Erica Letts' and Lauren Lupinacci's classes at Deauville Gardens West Elementary School performed Readers Theater presentations of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "The Three Little Pigs" for one another. Readers Theater productions are dramatic presentations of books through scripted form that help students focus on fluency development, motivate reluctant readers and strengthen comprehension. To prepare for their performances, the students worked for three weeks and created character hats to wear during their scenes.



Stepp

After years of enjoying watching Walter G. O'Connell Copiague School and Copiague Middle School teams perform, earlier this school year, Taniya Ambrose from Great Neck Road Elementary School grader Taniya Ambrose came up with the idea to start a coed elementary sports team.

With the support of school superintendent Lissette Persico, Taniya was responsible for writing a proposal with her plan for the club, and presenting it to Principal Joseph Agosta. After receiving approval to begin her club, Taniya was joined by teachers Katie Dutton, Janine P. Sara Sherdon, along with Ms. P. who volunteer as advisers and promote the club to fourth- and fifth-grade students. The club was established, high school team adviser aDrena Brown and



Laptops and Literacy

Combining technology and students' imaginations, Deauville Gardens East Elementary School hosted a Laptops and Literacy Night for fourth- and fifth-grade students and their parents.



To begin the program, DGE staff developer Jacqueline Kelly presented the six traits for quality writing – ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions – as well as tips for parents to help encourage their children's writing.

Following the presentation, the fourth- and fifth-graders wrote and illustrated their stories with the help of Scholastic's Story Starters website, which helps students determine theme, idea and format. Once completed, the students published their stories and were given the opportunity to share their creations with a captive audience.



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ing the High School step team for the school year, school fifth-grade with an step team. social worker on- sible vision and g it to eceiving ya recruited roulx and ersico, to te the club nts. Once school step a few of

her team members – Gabrielle Davis, Lyneisha Godwin, Mikayla Godwin, Brittani Gordon and Celene Hassock – visited Great Neck Road on their own time to teach modified versions of their routines to the 16 elementary students.

“When the high school step team would visit our school, everyone would try and copy their steps once they left,” said Taniya. “I thought it would be really fun to have our own club to actually learn the steps. It feels good to finally know how to do the steps and to have the high school girls teach them to us.”



Said Ms. Persico, “It has been amazing to see Taniya flourish in her leadership role, plan all of the details and coordinate this club that will continue after she moves up to the middle school.”

The elementary step team made their debut at the school's spring concert and will continue performing next year at schoolwide events, including the educational pep rally in the fall.



Giving Back to the Community

Eight months after Superstorm Sandy devastated areas of Long Island, including portions of the Copiague School District community, residents are still trying to build back their lives and homes. In order to assist the residents still in need following the storm, members of the District elementary TAG program, which includes students from all four Copiague elementary schools and TAG teacher Linda Scarth, raised money through various fundraising activities.

To raise the funds, the fourth- and fifth-grade TAG members organized a festival night where attendees could play games, participate in arts and crafts, and enjoy snacks, while the third-grade members hosted a help-a-thon, for which they volunteered their time doing chores in exchange for donations.

To thank the students for their efforts, Town of Babylon Deputy Supervisor Tony Martinez and Copiague Chamber of Commerce President Sharon Fattoruso and Vice President Donna Farina visited with the students and presented them with certificates. The \$875 raised by the TAG students will be added to the Chamber's Sandy funds and distributed to families in the school district.



Kids Walk for a Cure

To do their part to help find a cure for juvenile diabetes, Susan E. Wiley Elementary School teamed up with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to host a Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes. According to the JDRF website, the Kids Walk program is an educational, in-school fundraising program with two goals: to educate students about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and the importance of a healthy lifestyle, and to provide them with an opportunity to make a difference by raising money for Type 1 diabetes.

Organized by the Fit Club and its advisers Danielle Palladino and Christopher Uccellini, every class in the school walked a quarter mile around the perimeter of the school to help raise awareness and funds for the cause. “We felt that hosting this walk was a great culmination program for the Fit Club,” said Mr. Uccellini. “It all played well with the healthy lifestyle, healthy choices program we're teaching the children in the club.”

To gear up for the event, the school hosted an assembly program, with JDRF's co-chair of the Kids Walk program, Marta Gabrielli, informing the students about the disease and the ways they can help. By the end of the walk and fundraising campaign, the Wiley students had raised more than \$3,100.



Recognizing Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School's Isabella M. Driscoll Chapter of the National Honor Society gained 20 members on May 30, as the society hosted its annual induction ceremony.



Honoring the sophomore, junior and senior inductees for their scholarship, leadership, service and character were members of the Board of Education, Assistant Superintendent Karen Sheridan, high school administration, advisers Rose Anne Fuss and Denise Raimondi, and family and friends. Guest speakers and retiring faculty members Janet Guzowski and Rosanne Wilson also recognized the students.

"When Mrs. Wilson and I were asked to speak this evening, we could not have been more honored than if we were asked to present at the Academy Awards," said Ms. Guzowski. In the spirit of the Academy Awards, Ms. Guzowski and Mrs. Wilson recognized each of the inductees in the categories of scholarship, leadership, service and character for their "outstanding individual contributions to [their] school and community."

The District extends its congratulations to the newest members of the Isabella M. Driscoll Chapter of the National Honor Society.



Seniors Spotlited at Awards Night

It was a night of celebration to culminate years of hard work as Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School held its annual Senior Awards Night. The Class of 2013 gathered in the auditorium, where members of the Board of Education, district and high school administration, parents, family, and community members enjoyed an evening of well-deserved awards and scholarships.

"On behalf of the Board of Education, we are honored to be in attendance at tonight's ceremony," said Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "I'd like to congratulate everyone here tonight, because it really has taken everyone – a village, if you will – to help these students achieve the successes that have made this evening possible."

High School Principal Jeanette Altruda played master of ceremonies throughout the evening, during which scholarship monies were presented by community members to select students and academic and athletic awards were given for high achievements.



MIDDLE SCHOOL INDUCTS 47 INTO HONOR SOCIETY

Forty-seven students were recognized in a special candlelighting ceremony on May 16 at Copiague Middle School, as the seventh- and eighth-graders were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. In front of members of the Board of Education, administration, and family and friends, the inductees celebrated the four pillars of the NJHS: service, character, scholarship and leadership.

During the ceremony, the new inductees heard congratulatory remarks from Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, Principal Andrew Lagnado, Advisers Paul Harvey and Francesca Walker, and the student-chosen guest speaker, Social Studies Teacher Stephen Cooney.

"Being part of this society illustrates not only your achievement, but your commitment to excellence in the classroom," said Mr. Cooney. "You have all proven that you value your education and are willing to work hard for academic success. This is only the beginning."



Earth Day Winner

Natalia Kacala, a sixth-grade student at Copiague Middle School, was the winner of the New York State Senate's Earth Day Poster Contest for the 8th District. Following the theme "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," Natalia's drawing included images of the earth, sun, animals, plants and buildings living in harmony.

New York State Sen. Charles J. Fuschillo Jr., who oversees the 8th District, visited the middle school to congratulate Natalia for her first-place finish and present her with a certificate. During his visit, Sen. Fuschillo also presented a certificate of participation to sixth-grader Claudia Arevalo.

The goal of the competition was to encourage children to develop an awareness of the environment and its resources.



Getting Fit at SEW

This past November, in an effort to increase awareness about the importance of nutrition and exercise, Susan E. Wiley Elementary School teachers Danielle Palladino and Christopher Uccellini started the Fit Club.

“The goal of the club is to teach students how to live a healthy lifestyle,” said Ms. Palladino. “We encourage our members to make nutritious food choices instead of eating sweets and junk food.” Added Mr. Uccellini, “We also discuss the importance of staying active and finding opportunities to make exercise fun.”

Over the course of the school year, the members of the Fit Club were introduced to a variety of heart-healthy activities, including calisthenics, running, Zumba, yoga and kickboxing. Additionally, members of the Copiague community with experience in teaching yoga, Zumba and kickboxing visited with the students to demonstrate proper techniques and engage them in lessons on proper nutrition.



HONORING SPRING ATHLETES

Student-athletes from Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School were honored at the school’s Spring Sports Awards Night on May 20. The evening, sponsored by the Booster Club, was filled with praise for members of the track, baseball, softball and lacrosse teams for their commitment to teamwork, school and themselves.

In addition to honoring the most valuable and most improved players, as well as giving out the coach’s award for each team, Joshua Outsen, a senior of the baseball team, was awarded the Daniel O’Connell Memorial Award. This award is presented each spring in memory of Mr. O’Connell, who attended Copiague High School and was killed in action serving his country in 1969.

The Section XI Gold Key Award, the highest Section XI honor that an athlete can receive, and Golden Eagle Awards were also presented at the ceremony. The Gold Key is awarded to student-athletes who letter in eight junior varsity or varsity seasons in grades 10-12. This year’s recipients were Ashley Arquer (field hockey, winter track, spring track), DJ Brown (cross-country, winter track, spring track), A’leah Daleus (soccer, winter track, spring track), Alex Negro (football, winter track, lacrosse), Juan Taveras (cross-country, winter track, spring track), Lizbelle Taveras (volleyball, winter track, spring track), Jeff Urbina (football, wrestling, spring track) and Caitlin Zowak (soccer, basketball, softball).

The Golden Eagle Award is given to the student on each team who had the highest cumulative grade point average for the season. For the spring season, Dawn Gioia (girls track), Grace Hall (softball), Amer Islam (boys lacrosse), Joshua Outsen (baseball), Nicolette Vasseur (girls lacrosse) and Zachary Wilson (boys track) received the Golden Eagle.

Spring Sports Round-Up

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
Boys Spring Track	Jonathan Argueta	All-League 400, All-Division 400 & 4x400, Division Champ 4x100 relay
Boys Spring Track	DJ Brown	All-League 400 Intermediate Hurdles, All-Division 800, All-Division 4x400 relay, Division Champ 400 Intermediate Hurdles
Boys Spring Track	Tyrrell English	All-League High Jump
Boys Spring Track	Maurice Epps	All-League High Jump, All-Division High Jump, All-Division Triple Jump, Division Champ 4x100 Relay
Boys Spring Track	Aaron McFadden	All-League 110 High Hurdles, All-Division 110 High Hurdles, All-Division 400 Intermediate Hurdles, All-Division 4x400 Relay, Division Champ 4x100 Relay
Boys Spring Track	Willie McFadden III	All-League 100, Division Champ 4x100 relay
Boys Spring Track	Jordan McLaurin	All-League Shot Put
Boys Spring Track	Matthew Prusaczyk	All-League High Jump
Boys Spring Track	Juan Taveras	All-League 3200
Boys Spring Track	Max Tsar	All-League, All-Division 4x400 Relay
Boys Spring Track	Jeffrey Urbina	All-League, Discus
Boys Spring Track	Jose Villatoro	All-League, 400 Intermediate Hurdles
Boys Spring Track	Zachary Wilson	All-Division Pentathlon
Girls Spring Track	Guillerni Almanzar	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Ashley Arquer	Academic All-County, All-League
Girls Spring Track	Nickeela Austin	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Zyare Brown	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Ashley Jackson	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Shanisha Jeffrey	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Jennifer Ruiz	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Mimi Swenton	All-League
Baseball	Josh Outsen	Academic All-League, O’Connell Award
Baseball	Jose Taveras	All-League
Boys Lacrosse	Javon Garrett	All-Division
Girls Lacrosse	Samantha Perez	All-Division
Softball	Caitlin Zowak	All-League

Safe Drivers

For their safe driving record in their driver education course, Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School seniors Myra Gonzales and Connor Zowak were awarded the AAA’s Driver Education Award by AAA New York, the local AAA affiliate. Myra and Connor were selected on the basis of demonstrated driving skills, knowledge of the rules of the road, and a mature attitude and approach to driving. The Copiague School District congratulates both students. Pictured left to right: Driver Education instructor Karen Perrone, seniors Connor Zowak and Myra Gonzales, and Director of Physical Education and Athletics Pete Cesare.



Copiague Schools Announce Fall Sports Physicals

The Copiague School District will hold fall sports physicals on Thursday, Aug. 1 for all high school and middle school students planning to participate in fall sports. The physicals will take place in the Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School nurse’s office from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.





IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON TRANSPORTATION



Dear Copiague Resident:

This past year, our district was faced with a historic challenge to preserve student programs and to prevent layoffs to instructional staff. Every effort was made to scrutinize and validate existing costs in order to present a spending plan for the 2013-2014 school year that you, our taxpayers, could afford. We thank you for your continued support.

As part of our district review of the transportation program, the Administrative team examined the ridership, or student count, on every bus. We have identified a small, but growing trend of students riding our vehicles who are not eligible for transportation. This has resulted in some instances where vehicles became overcrowded, which warranted a call for an additional bus to provide safe transportation. Having students on a bus who are not eligible for transportation also creates significant potential liability.

The Board of Education, as part

of its policy-making role, has had the opportunity to review the eligibility for busing as contained in Policy #8411. The Superintendent of Schools and his staff are charged with the implementation of Board Policy. In August 2011, the assignment of bus stops using printed bus passes was instituted. Bus passes are mailed to households in August. Student bus passes, which are the last step in the routing of our vehicle fleet, provide clear written instructions to all as to where students are to be picked up in the morning and dropped off in the afternoon using very specific addresses.

Currently, we transport approximately 3,800 students using 45 large buses and 71 vans. Our large buses serve in-district students and are efficiently routed using computer software. A typical morning bus route involves three trips serving the high school, middle school, and an elementary school. The same bus routes are utilized on the return trips in the afternoon.

The background information just mentioned is to provide you with a greater understanding of our transportation program and to alert you that some efficiency improvements and changes are planned for the 2013-14 school year. Using the eligibility guidelines provided in Board of Education Policy and approved by the voters of the district over 40 years ago, the following households are eligible for transportation:

- For Grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 – you must live more than .75 miles from school
- For Grades 7-8 – you must live more than 1.0 miles from school
- For Grades 9-12 – you must live more than 1.5 miles from school

Again, bus passes will be mailed in August to those residences who, based upon the grade level distances mentioned above, qualify for transportation.

Please know that Education Law and Board Policy are very clear on eligibility and the Copiague School District asks for your understanding and compliance as we continue to monitor bus ridership in order to eliminate any extra costs that ineligible students may generate. When asked by either the bus driver or school officials, all students must show their bus passes in order to ride the bus.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding and cooperation. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Transportation Office at 842-4015 x529.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Greb
President, Board of Education

Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of Schools



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