

DATES TO Remember

April 27-April 29
Late Kindergarten
Registration

April 28
Board of Education
Meeting @ 7:30 pm
BOCES Votes

May 11
Public Hearing &
Board of Education
Meeting @ 7:30 pm

May 19
Budget Vote
10:00 am - 10:00 pm
Great Neck Road School

UNITY AND SUPPORT AT COPIAGUE LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

More than 200 community residents and invited guests gave of their free time on a Saturday morning to participate in the Copiague School District's annual Legislative Breakfast. Community support and pride in the Copiague schools were evident as those in attendance voiced their appreciation to their elected officials for their support, while at the same time stressing the significant negative impact reduced financial assistance would create.

"Everything we do for our children would be impossible without the continued caring and support of our community and the continued support of our legislators," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "Our success is no coincidence," added Board of Education President Brian J. Sales. "Success hasn't happened overnight. Our achievements have grown over the years with everyone's ongoing support. We understand that times are tough, but we are in need of your support on behalf of our children."

After listening to a musical performance by the Copiague Middle School Chamber Chorus, under the direction of music teacher Gina Occhiogrosso, everyone enjoyed a video presentation highlighting student achievements and the

numerous extracurricular and athletic activities available to Copiague students. The Class of 2009 Top Ten were also introduced by Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Principal Albert H. Voorneveld, who shared information about each student's achievements and future plans.

Senator Owen Johnson, a graduate of Great Neck Road Elementary School, shared the latest information from Albany and noted how the Copiague School District serves as an example of a job done right. "When I come here I get a lift," stated Senator Johnson. "Copiague is a great district altogether. You just get the job done. The number of community residents here today is outstanding. You stand together as a community and we will stand with you." Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney added, "We are going to do the right thing for you, just as you do every day for your students."

In closing the morning's event and addressing the elected officials, Mr. Leunig stressed again the importance of providing all students with a quality education and the funds needed to do that. "We will continue to take good care of our kids, but we need your support now more than ever."

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, 2009.

LATE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the Copiague Union Free School District will be held at the District Administrative Office located in the Middle School on Great Neck Road from April 27 - 29, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Children who will have turned age five on or before December 1, 2009 are eligible to attend school in September 2009. Registration requirements include proof of the child's age, residence within the boundaries of the Copiague School District, and immunization against polio, measles, rubella (German measles), mumps, diphtheria and hepatitis B. Additional information on immunizations should be requested from your child's physician. A law recently enacted in 2008 expands a physical to include a Dental Health Screening.

For registration information, call 842-4015, ext. 538. Those who do not plan to register their children at this time should also call school officials to assist in the district's planning

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER TO VOTE

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE! 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 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 12, 2009.

BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION MAY 19, 2009

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.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Charles A. Leunig, *Superintendent of Schools*

Copiague Connections

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



www.copiague.k12.ny.us

SPRING 2009



Top Ten



Khang Nguyen
Valedictorian



Richard Pongvitayapanu
Salutatorian



Katherine Silva



James Prasad



Brittany McCartan



Steve Aracena



Maylynda Monte



Amanda Fanizza



Danielle Diegue



Joanna Gromadzki

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Copiague School District

Copiague Pride

Early Admittance

The Class of 2009 knows that it takes dedication, hard work, and teamwork to achieve the dream of attending the college or university of choice. Below is just a partial list of colleges and universities that have offered admission and scholarships to the Class of 2009:

Adelphi University
Cornell University
CUNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education
CUNY @ York College
Drexel University
Fordham University
Hartwick College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Hunter College
Mercy College
New York University
Pennsylvania State University
St John's University

St. Joseph's College
SUNY @ Albany
SUNY @ Buffalo
SUNY @ Cortland
SUNY @ Fashion Institute of Technology
SUNY @ Geneseo
SUNY @ Oswego
SUNY @ Stony Brook
SUNY College of Technology Alfred State
Temple University
University of Connecticut
University of Michigan
University of South Carolina
University of Virginia

A MESSAGE from the B.O.E. & Superintendent

Dear Copiague Schools Community Member,

By now you may have heard the good news regarding our latest round of academic assessment results. By every measure, Copiague students are succeeding and graduating in larger numbers than ever before. There are a number of reasons for this continued academic improvement: a dedicated Board of Education and tremendous community support for proven programs for kids, an outstanding professional teaching and administrative staff, solid professional development, increased "buy in" by the parents of our students and long-awaited increases in state aid over the last few years which have helped to build and strengthen our overall program. In working toward these achievements, the Board of Education and administration have diligently and respectfully created annual budgets over the last several years that continue to meet the needs of children at an affordable cost to our taxpayers.

In mid-November, I wrote to you regarding the looming economic challenges we would likely be facing in the near future. We explained that we would carefully review cost containment initiatives to help offset the likely cuts in state aid that would come as a result of the state's budget deficit, while trying to protect your investment in our schools.

Over the past six weeks, the Board of Education has been working diligently to build a budget for the 2009-10 school year that maintains as many of the successful programs as possible that we offer for our children but also reflects the difficult economic times that our residents, and all of us, are facing. And we are trying to accomplish all of this while the state is reducing aid to education. For the next two years, we will be receiving Federal Stimulus funds which are designed to offset the severe cuts in aid from New York State. But since the state has not done its job to close the budget deficit, we are doing what we can starting this year to reduce costs over the next two years so that when these Stimulus funds do go away, we won't be in a worse situation. To meet this challenge, we are looking at every line item in the budget for the remainder of this school year and for next year as well. We have implemented cost-containment measures wherever

possible, are consolidating administrative and supervisory positions, reducing other staff where possible in areas that will not directly impact services to students, and have used retirement incentives to help offset overhead costs in future years. The only real programmatic change reflected in the budget for next year is the beginning of the phasing out of our German program due to low student interest. Otherwise, programs and services will remain intact.

In the coming weeks, we will be completing our work on next year's budget. As we work through this process during this difficult time, please be assured that we will continue to carefully look out for both the children's and the community's best interests. As we stated in our November letter, as a community we have overcome difficulties in the past, and we are confident, by working together, Copiague will continue to be a Great Place to Live, Learn and Work.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Sales, President
Board of Education

Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of Schools

COPIAGUE BOE HONORS STUDENT SUCCESSES

Copiague Public Schools held a special recognition ceremony to honor twenty-seven students within the district for their extra-special accomplishments. Members of the administration, Board of Education, Parent Teacher Associations, teachers, and parents gathered to acknowledge the students who serve as positive role models for their fellow classmates.

"Tonight is a night that the Board of Education puts aside twice a year to honor and recognize students who go above and beyond," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig.

On January 26 the Board recognized students who have portrayed selfless acts of kindness, proven to be positive role models for classmates, volunteered their time to help others, and for academic, athletic, and musical accomplishments.

Congratulations to the following students

DEAUVILLE GARDENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tiamarie Ricciardella
Alexis Jakubowski
Milton Bond IV
Send Amador

GREAT NECK ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Alonso Belli
Jefferson Medrano
Ricard Saintil

SUSAN E. WILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Belen Morote
Amerkal Campbell
Jelyca De La Cruz

COPIAGUE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tatyana Bellamy-Walker
Jamie Campana
Adonis Adames
Genesis Andia
Liza Foley
Roger Gonzalez
Elsy Sanchez

WALTER G. O'CONNELL COPIAGUE HIGH SCHOOL

Michael Aquino
Jhante Collins
Sherley Demetrius
Julian Perez
Danielle Dickson
Salvatore Ferriola
Daniel Kurzyp
Laura Natoli
Eric Ramdas



Copiague Board Member Honored by NYSSBA

Copiague School District Board of Education Second Vice President Michael Greb was recently honored by the New York State School Boards Association for his "extensive time and effort required to continually expand their governance knowledge and skills."

Board of Education members qualify for recognition by participating in varied NYSSBA developmental activities, such as the Academy for Public School Governance, Board Officers Academy, School Board Institute courses, legal conferences, etc. Those who complete 40 credits of developmental events qualify for the Developmental Achievement Citation, which was presented publicly during the January 14 Board of Education meeting by Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. Pictured are (left to right) Mr. Leunig and Mr. Greb.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The school district is the core of the community. Ongoing community support has made it possible for all students to receive a quality education that provides the skills to be successful now and in the future. Student achievement has continued to be a source of community pride as students earn recognition both in the classroom and on the athletic field. Members of the Class of 2009 are being accepted to many of the finest colleges and universities in the country, while the members of the Girls Varsity Basketball Team recently demonstrated their outstanding athletic talents winning the Suffolk County Championship, Long Island Championship, and the New York State Championship.

For the past several months, the Board of Education and administration have been analyzing line by line expenditures to ensure the 2009-2010 proposed budget continues to meet the needs of all students, while at the same time containing costs and maintaining the financial stability needed through these unprecedented challenging economic times.

The Board and administration have been diligent in their joint efforts to develop a budget that achieves the following: maintain the core educational program, continue to raise student achievement, maintain current class sizes guidelines where possible, comply with the Contract for Excellence, provide safe and secure modern educational facilities, and maintain financial stability throughout these challenging economic times. The next issue of the Copiague Connection will outline the details of the 2009-2010 proposed budget. All residents are encouraged to be part of Copiague's future and remember to vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

SAFETY TRAINING

The Copiague School District purchased five Garaventa Evacu-Trac CD7 Emergency Evacuation Chairs, using a portion of the \$100,000 Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REM) federal security grant obtained earlier this year. The Evacu-Tracs, which will be stored on the top floors of the high school, middle school, and Great Neck Road and Susan E. Wiley elementary schools, provide safe, reliable and fast emergency evacuation for students and teachers with mobility issues and special needs.

In order to ensure that all proper safety precautions are utilized while operating the Evacu-Trac, Director of School Safety Joe Millan held training sessions at each building with administrators, security personnel, and staff members located on the top floors. During the training, participants took turns acting as the operator and the victim during a simulated emergency. "You have to have confidence in the chair," said Mr. Millan during a training session at Susan E. Wiley. "If you let the chair do the work the process will be safe and easy."

The use of the Evacu-Tracs will substitute for the use of a safe room, which holds students and teachers with mobility issues and special needs until emergency personnel can rescue them.



LADY EAGLES are State Champions

Congratulations to the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Girls Varsity Basketball team. The 13-member team brought home the NYS Class AA Championship after defeating Bethlehem High School 74-58 in the championship game held at Hudson Valley Community College on Saturday, March 21.

During the championship game, seniors Ieasia Walker and Gabrielle Gibson led the Lady Eagles with 28 points and sophomore Chelsea Williams added 11. The 28 points scored by both Ieasia and Gabby landed them in the Copiague record books. Ieasia became Copiague's all-time leading scorer and Gabby became only the third student

to reach 2,000 career points.

The road to the State Championship game included wins over Sachem High School East for the Class AA Suffolk County Championship, Wyandanch High School for the overall Suffolk County Championship, Syosset High School for the Long Island Championship title, and Canandaigua High School in the state semifinals.

This is the first State Championship title for the team since 2003, in which the Lady Eagles also defeated Bethlehem High



School. The team is coached by Carole Olsen, Yvan Garcia, and Michael Ferretti and finished the season with a 22-4 overall record.

Making Copiague History

On January 27, 2007, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Girls Varsity Basketball player Ieasia Walker scored her 1,000-career basket against West Babylon. Fast forward to February 23, 2009 in an 87-61 win against Half Hollow Hills West, Ieasia went down in Copiague history as only the second student-athlete to achieve 2,000 career points. The 5'7" point guard, secured her place in history on a layup with 5:54 remaining in the game.

"I am so proud of Ieasia," stated Head Coach Carole Olsen. "Her growth as a team leader and her intensity are what have made the difference in her play this year."

Throughout her six years on the varsity basketball team, Ieasia has amassed numerous accomplishments. She has been named All-League six years running, and All-County five years, was All-Long Island in the 2007-2008 season, been a member of the All-State team, and an MSG and *Newsday* Player of the Week, and was named the Section XI 2009 Tournament MVP, and State Tournament MVP. Ieasia ended her high school basketball career with statistics that include 2,174 points, 1,053 rebounds, 585 steals, and 641 assists. With her 2,174 points, Ieasia became Copiague's all-time leading scorer, surpassing 2003 graduate Kia Wright.

Ieasia will attend the University of South Carolina on a full scholarship, where she will continue to play basketball.



He Shoots, He Scores

Mervin Springer, a senior guard on the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Basketball team, marked a major milestone in his athletic career by scoring his 1,000th career point. During the team's January 26 game against Newfield, Mervin recorded his first career triple-double with 31 points, 14 rebounds and 10 steals. He secured his 1000th point on a three-point shot in the third quarter and ended the game with 1,011 points.

"I think it is very special anytime a high school player can score 1,000 points in their career," stated Head Coach Steve Rebholz. "What makes it even more special in Merv's case is that he did it in only three seasons of varsity basketball. He has worked tremendously hard to better his skills

each year. In his three years with us he has moved from being a role player in his sophomore year into a team leader and impact player in his senior year. As hard as he has worked on his offensive game, he has worked even harder to improve his defense. I remain tremendously proud of him as he now sets the bar for our younger players to follow."

In his three previous years as a varsity player, Mervin has been named an All-Conference and All-League player, was the starting guard during the 2006-2007 season when the team won the Long Island Championship, and is currently captain of the team. Pictured left to right are: Head Coach Steve Rebholz, Mervin Springer, Coordinator of P.E. and Athletics Pete Cesare, and Assistant Coach Johnny Kelly.



COPIAGUE HONORS WINTER ATHLETES

For the past several years, the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Booster Club has sponsored 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 sing the praises of the students' commitment both on the field and in the classroom. Individual honors are given to the most valuable and improved players on the teams, as well as special coaches' awards that are presented to the students who went above and beyond for each team throughout the season. In February, the Booster Club sponsored the Winter Sports Awards at which they recognized members of Girls and Boys Bowling, Wrestling, Girls and Boys Winter Track, Cheerleading, the Step Team, and Girls and Boys Basketball.

A Golden Eagle award is also given to the student on each team who had the highest cumulative grade point average for the season. For the winter season, Kenya Barrett (Girls Bowling), Austin Cirola (Boys Bowling), Bomani Buckhalter (Wrestling), Jessica Murphy (Girls Winter Track), Khang Nguyen (Boys Winter Track), Elizabeth Cullen (Cheerleading), Janay Hamlin (Step Team), Michael Mitchell (Boys Basketball), and Dominique Smith (Girls Basketball) were awarded the Golden Eagle, as well as a free dessert from Applebees of Lindenhurst. Akeam Tyrell, a member of the wrestling team, was also presented with the Ed Wall Memorial Wrestling Award.



Winter Sports Wrap-up

SPORT	NAME	AWARD
Girls Winter Track	Danielle Dickson	All-League 300
Wrestling	Clint Boone	All-League
Wrestling	Justin Boone	All-League
Wrestling	Pat Flynn	All-League
Wrestling	Ty Morrison	All-League/All-County
Wrestling	Roy Paulino	All-League
Wrestling	Hasan Poole	All-League
Wrestling	Joe Pulido	All-League
Wrestling	Akeam Tyrell	All-League
Girls Basketball	Gabrielle Gibson	All-League/All-County/ 2009 All-Tournament Team
Girls Basketball	Ieasia Walker	All-League /All-County/ 2009 All-Tournament MVP/ Nominated for Player of the Year
Girls Basketball	Chelsea Williams	All-League/ 2009 All-Tournament Team
Girls Bowling	Dominique Hunter	All-League
Boys Basketball	Patrick Franklin	All-League Academic
Boys Basketball	Philip Page	All-League Honorable Mention
Boys Basketball	Nasha Smith	All-League
Boys Basketball	Reggie Smith	All-League
Boys Basketball	Mervin Springer	All-League/ All-Conference/ All-County

YES WE CAN

Students from the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School African-American Students' Organization (AASO) recently honored those who came before them with their annual African-American History Month Celebration. The theme for this year's performance was "Yes We Can."

Under the supervision of advisor aDrena Brown, this year approximately 25 students participated and performed hip hop, jazz, and modern dance routines, an original poem entitled "Judgment" by Anya Burgess, and a few musical numbers. Theo Fields played the theme song from Titanic on the piano, and he also performed "Georgia" by Ray Charles. Tishina Cox, Alexandria Hutchinson, and Shannell Davis sang, "Amazing Grace" with a piano accompaniment by Joycelyn Brown, and

an a cappella version of Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful."

"I chose President Obama's slogan 'Yes We Can' because I felt that it encompasses everything," said Ms. Brown. "It even applies to each and every student: Yes We Can sing, Yes We Can act, Yes We Can dance, Yes We Can achieve anything we set out to do. The sky is truly the limit!"



WITNESSING HISTORY IN ACTION

On January 20, 2009, as Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, the students in the Copiague School District bore witness to this historic event. To celebrate the Inauguration of President Barack Obama, all five district schools – Deauville Gardens Elementary School, Great Neck Road Elementary School, Susan E. Wiley Elementary School, the Middle School, and Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School – held schoolwide viewing parties. Through the help of the technology department, the ceremony was broadcast live throughout the buildings in classrooms, the cafeteria, library, and auditorium.



"It's an important day in history," stated freshman Ragine Garrett. "It's a change for America and I'm glad I could watch it live."

Copiague Student Witnesses History, Reports on it

Tatyana Bellamy-Walker, a seventh-grade student at Copiague Middle School, experienced history in the making as she traveled to Washington, D.C. to witness the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. While many visitors to the capital were there as spectators, Tatyana was working as part of the New York Daily News' Children's Press Line. For the past three years she has volunteered her time to interview people for stories for the Children's Press Line, and she was one of five student-reporters chosen to cover the Inauguration.



"It was so amazing to see the first African-American President being sworn in," said Tatyana. "To me, education is very important, and seeing an African-American President really inspires me to be anything I want to be."

While Tatyana was at the Inauguration, she interviewed kids just like herself and asked them questions regarding President Obama and how it felt to be part of such a historical event. Her story was featured in the New York Amsterdam News newspaper.

Building Community



Continuing a yearly tradition and its commitment to community service, members of the Copiague Middle School Builders Club recently visited the Tanner Park Senior Center in Copiague. During the visit, the students dedicated part of their school day to spending quality time with the seniors, creating Valentine's Day cards, and participating in line dancing.

The Builder's Club is a student organization that encourages its students to plan and work on various community service projects to help communication skills, values, teamwork and character.

Copiague Booster Club Honors "Woman 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 Antoinette Spencer, high school physical education teacher and 11-year district employee, for her many years of dedicated service and contributions to the young women of the Copiague community.

Ms. Spencer is a New Paltz graduate who has put in countless hours coaching bowling, spring track, soccer, and basketball. She is also the advisor of the Varsity Club.

"Ms. Spencer's efforts on her students' behalf have produced memories lasting for a lifetime," stated Peter Cesare, Coordinator of P.E. & Athletics.

The National Girls and Women in Sports Day is celebrated in all 50 states as a way of honoring the achievements and encouraging participation of girls and women in sports. Pictured left to right: Town of Babylon Councilwoman Jacqueline A. Gordon, Antoinette Spencer, and Booster Club President Theresa Pulido



S.O.U.L. Creates Change

Members of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Students Of Unified Leaders Group (S.O.U.L.) recently pooled their resources together for a daylong conference in which they aspired to inspire their fellow classmates. S.O.U.L. consists of 12 individual brigades that meet bi-weekly to discuss a broad range of topics. The brigades are based upon academics (Video Production and Medicine), cultural descent (Latin and Polish), and interest in the environment or equal rights, and a Hip Hop Brigade that creates music, beats, and lyrics.

"Our goal is to influence, positively, the cultural

environment of the high school," stated advisor Jaime Suarez. "Today we are working together to raise academic achievement, change ideas and norms, and to influence students positively so they'll make positive educational choices."

In addition to Mr. Suarez, six teachers volunteer their time to advise the brigades, including Monica Krawczyk, James Travis, JoAnn Erwin, Yoleidys Swerdloff, Dan Barresi, and Yan Garcia.



TWO COPIAGUE STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR ALL-EASTERN CHORUS

Two Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School students are among the approximately 650 students from 12 states and Europe selected to participate in the prestigious 2009 All-Eastern Honors Mixed Choir, sponsored by MENC: The National Association for Music.



Seniors Laura Natoli, alto, and Eric Ramdas, tenor, represented the district on March 15 in Providence, Rhode Island. Laura is the first female in Copiague history to be chosen as an All-Eastern musician and Eric is the first male in approximately 12 years. Both students have been members of the Madrigal Choir since ninth-grade and hope to attend Pace University in the fall.

"It's awesome to be chosen to perform at All-Eastern," said Laura. "I feel really honored." Added Eric, "There have been so many great performers at the high school over the years that it's great to be able to represent the district at such a prestigious event."

Participating students are nominated by their state music educators associations and selected by a nine-member volunteer committee. All recommended students must be high school juniors or seniors who have participated in their local All-State festivals. In addition, membership in the All-Eastern Honors Ensembles reflects each state's participation in the total MENC Eastern Division. Up to four qualified students may also be selected to represent Europe.

BUSINESS-MINDED STUDENTS EXCEL AT COMPETITIONS



Competing against high school students throughout Long Island, members of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School DECA club captured 25 first-place trophies and six second-place trophies at the regional competition held at Suffolk County Community College. Copiague students won first place in a multitude of different areas, including job interview, public speaking, visual advertising, and economics. Of the sixteen students who participated in the State tournament, the district received three gold medals. Khang Nyugen brought two gold medals back to Copiague, while Corey O'Brien also won a gold medal.

DECA is a national student organization whose program of leadership and personal development is designed specifically for students interested in marketing, management and entrepreneurship.

One Night Only

For one night only, student-musicians at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School showcased their musical talent during the annual POPS concert.

"Tonight showcases our music department in a different light and perspective – no tuxedos, no ties – but still a lot of fun," stated Coordinator of Fine and Technical Arts André Poprilo.

Throughout the night, members of the band and chorus performed solo and group performances ranging from Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours" and Fergie's "Big Girls Don't Cry" to the theme from Disney's *The Incredibles* and John Lennon's "Let it Be."



Four students from the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School concert perform A Taste of Honey's hit song "Boogie Oogie Oogie" during the annual POPS concert.



Members of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Band opened up the annual POPS concert by playing the theme from Disney's *The Incredibles*.

Elementary Students CELEBRATE 100

Since the start of the school year, students at Deauville Gardens, Great Neck Road, and Susan E. Wiley Elementary Schools have adjusted to their school surroundings, and demonstrated their enthusiasm for learning and an eagerness to become part of the school community. On Tuesday, February 24, students throughout the elementary schools celebrated their 100th day in school, a milestone in their academic experience as students of the district. The hallways were lined with posters and projects celebrating the day.

At Deauville Gardens and Susan E. Wiley Elementary Schools, students participated in mathematical counting exercises, created original pieces of artwork using many tangible and edible items found throughout their houses and classrooms, read poetry and sang songs, all centered around the number 100. At Great Neck Road Elementary School, first-grade students heard a poem about the number 100 which used 100 words, and popped 100 balloons on the 100th minute of the 100th day of school, while wearing hats featuring the number 100.



IN DEPTH:

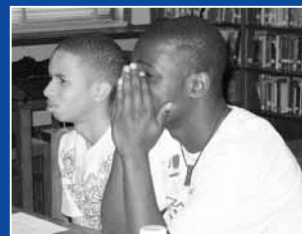
AUTOPSY

Forensic science students from Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School participated in a videoconference with six school districts across the country during which they watched a tape of an actual human autopsy with live narration by forensic pathologist Dr. Larry Tate. The program, *In Depth: Autopsy*, was developed by the Center Of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus, Ohio, with the help of The Ohio State University Medical Center.

The autopsy of a 60-year-old male was shown from the y-incision to the removal of the brain as Dr. Tate explained the entire process, including the legal and medical issues. Students viewed the autopsy and took notes in a packet and recorded results of the external and internal examinations. Students were also given the opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Tate, as well as a forensic toxicologist and pathology resident, at certain points throughout the autopsy.

Once the videoconference was completed, students worked together in class to determine the actual cause of death. Prior to the conference, students received the case history and some preliminary activities including the autopsy procedure, which helped the students figure out the cause and time of death.

"It's really exciting for the students because they find it very interesting, although a few wind up getting a little grossed out," commented teacher Kerri Costadura.



TREASURES from the Heart

Storyteller LuAnn Adams recently visited the students at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School to perform her "Treasures from the Heart" program. The Program featured multicultural stories of children and animal characters in folklore/literature, celebrating teachers, grandparents, food, the environment, and the unique dreams and treasures in our lives and hearts. The PTA sponsored the Character Education assembly program.



Middle School Students Bitten by Twilight Fever

Students at Copiague Middle School have been bitten by *Twilight* fever. *Twilight*, the young adult novel by Stephenie Meyer which centers around the romance between a typical high school student and a vampire, was recently brought to the movie screen. In conjunction with the opening of the film, middle school Home and Careers teacher Christine Barteldt and librarian Kristina Holzweiss sponsored a *Twilight* Movie and Book Discussion and Party. To participate in the discussion, students had to have seen the movie, read the book, and completed a VENN diagram comparing and contrasting the two.

During the discussion and party, students participated in numerous activity stations, including creating their own movie poster, and a deleted scenes station, where they discussed a scene from the book that was not included in the movie, its importance to the book, and why they believed it was left out. Students were also given the opportunity to create their own soundtrack and a cd cover, as well as a spin-off for one of the minor characters.

"It's amazing that a book has caused this passion within the students," said Mrs. Barteldt. "It's great to see how many students are now reading the books that weren't before, because they wanted to know what the big deal was and why it garnered a discussion and party."

Before students exited the discussion, they left a BLOG entry on Mrs. Barteldt's e-board and everyone went home with *Twilight* bookmarks created by Mrs. Barteldt.



AROUND DISTRICT Copiague Schools • A Great Place to Learn the

Copiague Schools Team Up with NY ISLANDERS

The district's three elementary schools, in conjunction with the New York Islanders Street Learning Experience or I.S.L.E. Program, recently received free street hockey equipment. The initiative was designed to help bring the game of hockey back into the physical education curriculum of elementary schools, while introducing the game to children who have never been exposed to it.

In addition to the schools receiving the equipment, including sticks, pucks, goalie pads, and goals, each student that participated in the program received a voucher for two tickets to a weeknight Islander hockey game.

"We're really excited about this program," stated Peter Cesare, Coordinator of P.E. and Athletics. "A lot of our students have never seen a real hockey game before and the vouchers, along with the equipment, will give them a better understanding of and more exposure to the sport."

The district also sent a few students to participate in the Long Island Hockey Fest weekend at Nassau Coliseum.



GONE TO THE BIRDS

For ten years, the Copiague School District and Home Depot, located on Sunrise Highway in Copiague, have worked together to form a school/community bond while building feeders for local birds.

Through this partnership, Jim Gilchrist, a Home Depot associate, visits all of the District's second-grade classrooms and teaches the students how to build bird feeders. Home Depot provides the tools and materials that the students use to assemble and

complete their bird feeders. The program allows the students the opportunity to practice following instructions, further develop their hand-eye coordination, and work cooperatively in small groups.

"In my opinion, this is the best thing the company does," stated Mr. Jim, as he is known to the students. "It's a wonderful program and I am committed and thrilled to be a part of it."

Parents were also given the opportunity to lend a helping hand. Each class required in-class volunteers to help construct the bird feeders, and parents were happy to volunteer their time. Under the careful supervision of the adult volunteers, the students, all wearing bright orange Home Depot aprons, listened to the instructions and then began to put hammer to nail as they each attempted to make the perfect bird feeder.



As a special twist for the tenth anniversary, several seniors from Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, who were members of the first class to participate, returned to Deauville Gardens Elementary School, the site of the original program, to assist the current second graders in building their bird feeders.

"We've had a great relationship with Home Depot for as long as they have been in town," stated Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "They have always been big supporters of the Copiague Public Schools." Mr. Leunig also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Jim for his ten years of service to the district.

