



Copiague Public Schools

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

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SUMMER 2011



Going Organic

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School's Environmental Club, led by James Travis and Daniel Barresi, as well as a branch of S.O.U.L. (Student Organization of Unified Leaders), began work on an organic garden this past October. The club started out with small projects such as planting trees on Earth Day and implementing recycling programs for the school. The club acts essentially as a mentoring program, concentrating on providing a model for academic success by appealing to student interests. This year, the students decided they wanted to do something larger, which resulted in the building of this new organic garden.

Initial funding for the garden came from donations before receiving three grants, including a \$4,000 grant from the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). In addition to the funds, the CCE provides two farming experts who visit with the students on a monthly basis to teach the club everything, from the basics of square foot farming to organic planting techniques. Additional grants included a tiller from Mantis, which has helped the club with the maintenance of the farm, and a \$5,000 "Lowe's Toolbox" grant from Lowe's.

"The Environmental Club uses a 'project based learning' approach, meaning the learning starts in the classroom with formal academic lessons, followed by students venturing outside and implementing what they learned," remarked Mr. Travis. "The club has done this for every topic, from framing the beds to planting seeds."

The garden is currently producing an array of vegetables including peas, garlic, lettuce, broccoli, Swiss chard, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and cabbage. As proper nutrition is a topic of conversation, with this garden the club hopes to not only teach students about organic farming, but also to nurture their physical well-being. Having these goals in mind, Mr. Travis would like to expand the program to the middle school and the elementary schools in the future.

Additionally, due to his work with the garden, Mr. Travis was recognized by the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island.

Outstanding Citizens and Artists

The Copiague Board of Education and administration recognized outstanding student-artists and districtwide role models through the Superintendent's Art Gallery and Student Recognition Award ceremonies.

The Superintendent's Art Gallery began 15 years ago when Copiague art teachers selected several pieces of student artwork for the Superintendent to choose to inaugurate the gallery. Since then, the collection has grown and student artwork adorns the corridors and offices of each of the District's schools. Student-artists in kindergarten through twelfth grade are represented each year, and the framed pieces are identified by an engraved plate noting the student-artist's name, grade level, and year the piece was completed. In addition to having their work selected to the Superintendent's Art Gallery, Sophia Bright, Isai Salmeron, and Alyssa Tsistinas were chosen as the winners of the Fine Arts Festival, which was held during the Annual Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election. Each student was awarded a \$100 savings bond from COPTA, the Copiague Teachers Association.

Twice a year, a small number of students are recognized for their extra-special accomplishments by the Board of Education and administration. Being honored in front of their family, friends, and community is a way for the Board of Education to publicly recognize and celebrate these students' numerous successes. This year, 31 students were recognized for their outstanding achievements.

Congratulations to the following student-artists: Deauville Gardens Elementary School: Sophia Bright, Baron Chen, Sydney Forbes, and Robert Van Tassel; Great Neck Road Elementary School: Lauren David, Hellen



Duran, and Patrycja Juszczak; Copiague Middle School: Olivia Johnson, Maraya Jones, Diana Palencia, Veronica Pearce, Matthew Pulvidente, Isai Salmeron, Oscar Villalta Zelaya, and Keyrell Wingfield; and Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School: Tiffany Bourne, Liza Foley, Tahmena Kahn, Natalie Meehan, Lawrence Miller, Kevin Nieto, Stewart Pena, Nicholas Rosenblad, Alyssa Tsistinas, Jeffrey Urbina, and Mark Willnauer.

Congratulations to the following students for their extra-special accomplishments: Deauville Gardens Elementary School: Yorlenny Rodriguez, Brian Taveras, and Anthony Valenzuela-Reyes; Great Neck Road Elementary School: Franchezca Diaz, Rosa Garcia, Cinly Grousse, and Johnell Hankerson II; Susan E. Wiley Elementary School: Mariely Estevez, Yousef Moreno, Edinelly Peguero, and Jennifer Villatoro Umana; Copiague Middle School: Marcelino Benitez Castellanos, Morgan Cain, Adrian Chochorek, Chelsea Flores, Maria Duran, Yanirsa Duran, Angel Garcia-Molina, Skylah McBean, Omar Reyes, Ana Maria Rodriguez, Lillibeth Vides-Leiva, and Aleksandra Zieba; Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School: Alessandra Altruda, Jonathon Argueta, Ashley Arquer, Druscilla Dickson, Janel Francis, Ashley Jackson, Cypher McCloud, and Veronica Zieba.

Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

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Resident
Copiague School District



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 three 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 in a poor economy.

Despite the serious economic challenges we continue to face however, Copiague students continued their upward trend in academic

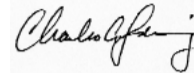
achievement. This year we again realized improvement, culminating in our highest Regents Diploma Graduation rate ever, 92%, for students attending Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School. We saw tremendous student and staff participation in clubs, other co-curricular activities, the arts and sports. Our teachers, administrators and all staff members worked very hard every single day to make a difference in the lives of our 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 its steady annual upward trend of academic improvement and provide the necessary stability for children that these challenging times require.

This past May, our residents showed their confidence once again in our schools by overwhelmingly approving our School Budget with the largest margin (69%) yet in the almost seventeen years I have been fortunate to be in Copiague. As with previous budgets, the Board of

Education and Administration struck the necessary balance between maintaining important programs for children and the interests of our taxpayers.

This newsletter highlights but a few of the many, many accomplishments of our students during the 2010-2011 school year. After taking a few minutes to review the various features and news pieces, I believe you will concur 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 the remainder of summer and look forward to joining with you this fall in working to make our schools the best they can be for our children.

See you in September!



Charles A. Leunig
Superintendent of Schools



Best of the Best

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Andrew Lagnado, principal of Copiague Middle School, was recently awarded Empire State Supervisors & Administrators Association's Outstanding Regional Administrator of the Year for Long Island. Mr. Lagnado was honored with the award at the Annual ESSAA Conference on June 3 in Albany.



Nominated by Science Chairperson Dr. Daniel Leccese, an application and letter of recommendation was submitted on Mr. Lagnado's behalf. "[Mr. Lagnado] is the first to credit his staff whenever something great happens," wrote Dr. Leccese in his nomination letter. "He encourages and inspires us to work smart. He consistently sings our accolades, personal or professional, and is humble and sincere in his enjoyment of others' happiness...Andy epitomizes leadership through caring. He makes us even better through his leadership and dedication to us and that translates into the children that we serve."

Once he was named a finalist, Mr. Lagnado had to fill out an application form, where he discussed his work at the middle school and with his team. "This award is not about me," remarked Mr. Lagnado. "This award is about my leadership team, the staff, students and families at the middle school, the support I receive from central administration, and the invaluable help of my wonderful secretary."

COPIAGUE BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF NSSBA

Copiague School District Board of Education trustee Brian J. Sales has been elected to represent Suffolk County and the Copiague School District as Vice President of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association (NSSBA). NSSBA is comprised of regional representatives located throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties whose primary goals include the advancement of education and service to member boards. Congratulations to Mr. Sales.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Copiague Middle School social studies teacher Stephen Cooney was named Outstanding Middle School/Junior High School Social Studies Teacher by the Long Island Council for the Social Studies. Mr. Cooney was nominated by Lisa Dunn, Social Studies Chairperson 7-12, for his knowledge in social studies content as well as knowledge of current social studies issues; and his effective and inspiring methods as a social studies teacher, including the ability to convey the importance and vitality of social studies to his students.

Mr. Cooney was honored at an awards ceremony held on May 24 at the Sheraton Long Island Hotel.



MODEL SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

For his valuable contribution and commitment to the growth of instructional technology, Western Suffolk BOCES named Director of Technology Todd Harris "Model Schools Administrator of the Year." Mr. Harris has worked in Copiague for seven years, during which time he has actively promoted professional development for teachers and administrators, provided support for the instructional technology needs of students and teachers, and worked to create an educational environment that encourages students to be 21st century learners. He was honored at a luncheon ceremony on June 8.



Looking Ahead to Middle School



Fifth-grade students across the Copiague School District had many reasons to celebrate this June as they readied to embark on the next stage of their academic careers. Parents and invited guests gathered together to congratulate the fifth graders at Deauville Gardens, Great Neck Road, and Susan E. Wiley and share in their moving-up ceremonies.

During the three ceremonies, the students listened to remarks from Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, their respective principals, and selected student representatives, who took to the podium

during the ceremonies to share the memories they created throughout their years as classmates. In his address to the graduating fifth graders, Mr. Leunig offered advice and encouragement on remembering locker combinations, navigating the middle school hallways, and making sense of the bell and class schedules.

During each of the elementary moving-up programs the new graduates also lent their musical talents, performing several selections they had practiced and perfected in preparation for the event.



Moving up from Middle School

The Copiague Middle School's eighth-grade students, parents, and staff were filled with pride during the moving-up ceremony held in the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School gymnasium on June 23. The night was a celebration of their hard work during the past three years. Proud parents and family members cheered and took photos documenting the occasion as the students processed into the gymnasium, wearing their blue gowns, to the sounds of Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" played by the sixth and seventh-grade band members.

During the ceremony, words of wisdom and congratulations were bestowed upon the large graduating class from Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, Middle School Principal Andrew Lagnado, Valedictorian Natalie Korba, and Salutatorian Anthony Guella.

"I congratulate all of you for reaching this important milestone in your lives and wish you luck as you move up to the high school."

"Tonight represents the culmination of your three years at Copiague Middle School," remarked Mr. Lagnado. "Your teachers, your parents, and all of us up here hope that your middle school years will serve as a bridge to a successful high school career. We also hope that you remember these years fondly when you earn your diploma four years from now at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School and beyond, when you eventually graduate from college. It is our hope that your experience in middle school has helped to shape the person that you are and the person that you will become. I congratulate all of you for reaching this important milestone in your lives and wish you luck as you move up to the high school."

Following the presentation of their diplomas from Mr. Lagnado, the Middle School Class of 2011 recessed out of the gymnasium through a sea of proud family members and friends.

OH! The Places They'll Go!

Daniel Handy,
Valedictorian
American University

Emily Hall,
Salutatorian
*SUNY College of
Environmental Science
and Forestry*

3. Jacob Ohrnberger,
University of Rhode Island

4. Nicole Mangels,
*Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute*

5. Shanice McKenzie,
Cornell University

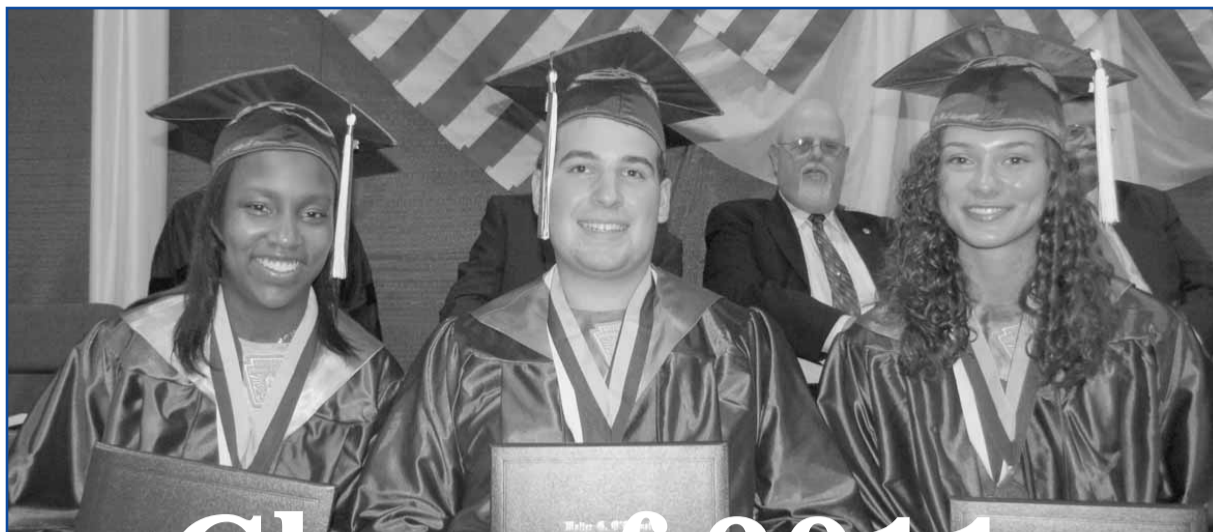
6. Amber Perrier,
Florida A&M University

7. Alex Attanasio,
*New Mexico Institute of
Mining and Technology*

8. Stephanie Diegue,
Northeastern University

9. Maxwell Woelk,
*SUNY College of
Environmental Science
and Forestry*

10. Andrew Preda,
*University of Massachusetts
Boston*



Class of 2011:

All for One and One for All

“All for One and One for All.” That was the theme of the Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School Class of 2011’s yearbook *Aquila* and the theme reverberated throughout the commencement ceremony held on Friday, June 24.

Gathered in the high school gymnasium, the students were surrounded by members of the Board of Education, administration, teachers, parents, and friends as they prepared to collect their high school diplomas and move their tassels from left to right.

“‘All for One and One for All’ it is truly fitting,” remarked Principal Jeanette Altruda. “This class has shown us all that three hundred and fifty plus people can live together, grow together, and love one another. Yours is a unique class, one that has time and again touched us all by the strength in your unity. You have truly made us proud.”

During the ceremony, Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, Board of Education President Laura Gavey, Valedictorian Daniel Handy, Salutatorian Emily Hall, and Senior Class Vice President Shanice McKenzie also addressed the crowd and offered their congratulations and words of advice and wisdom. “Set goals and find out ways to fulfill those goals,” offered Mrs. Gavey. “Set your course and make a positive impact on the world.” Added Mr. Leunig, “No matter where you go from here, the accomplishment of tonight’s achievement will always be there.”

Following the presentation of diplomas, the turning of the tassels, and the celebratory cap toss, the members of the Walter G. O’Connell Copiague High School Class of 2011 came together one final time to recess out of the gymnasium and into a world filled with possibilities and opportunities.

Congratulations, graduates.

Fast Facts on the Class of 2011

324 students graduating
92% graduating with Regents Diploma
30% graduating with Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation
79% attending higher education



Congratulations Graduates!



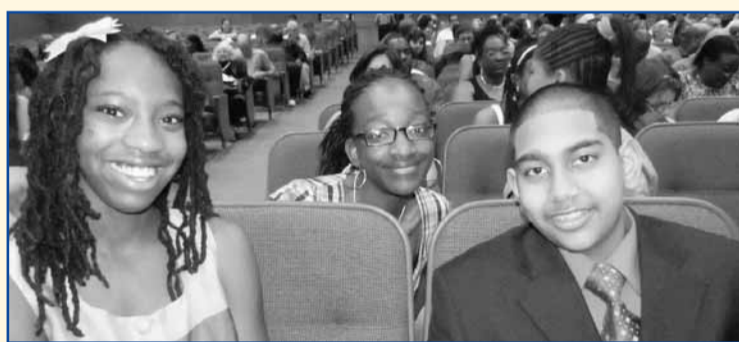
Copiague Seniors Shine Bright at Awards Night

Students, parents, teachers, and community members enjoyed an evening of well-deserved awards and scholarships at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School on Thursday, June 2, when more than \$47,000 in local community scholarships and academic awards was handed out.

Members of the administration, Board of Education, parent teacher associations, and community organizations gathered in the high school auditorium to acknowledge the students who earned high marks in the classroom, on the athletic field, for community service, and for their musical, theatrical, and artistic abilities.

The evening began when Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig, on behalf of the entire Board of Education and administration, congratulated the students and their families for their impressive accomplishments and wished the students continued success in their future endeavors. "Tonight is one of my favorite nights of the year," said Mr. Leunig. "Tonight is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment from our seniors and their families."

High School Principal Jeanette Altruda played mistress of ceremonies throughout the evening as scholarship monies were presented by community members to select students and awards were given for high achievements.



A Prestigious Honor

Throughout the month of May, numerous students in the Copiague Middle School and Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School were inducted into national honor societies. At the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, 27 students were inducted into the Isabella M. Driscoll Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Officers Shanice McKenzie (President), Daniel Handy (Vice President), Amber Perrier (Secretary), and Meagan Pride (Treasurer) spoke about the characteristics that best describe a National Honor Society member: Service, Character, Leadership, and Scholarship. The annual candlelight induction ceremony, held in the high school auditorium, honored those students who possess the four qualities.

The Copiague Middle School inducted 64 students into its chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative average of at least 90 percent. In addition, candidates must meet the high standards of Leadership, Service, Citizenship, and Character. Service and Leadership are based on the student's participation in community or school activities. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics, and cooperation with both students and faculty. Citizenship is demonstrated by civic involvement.

Congratulations to all inductees!



6,000 LAPS FOR SOLDIERS

To celebrate Memorial Day and to honor the memory of the more than 6,000 soldiers that have given their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, students and staff at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School walked 6,000 laps around their school track.

Organized by members of the Student Organization of Unified Leaders (S.O.U.L.) and their advisor Jaime Suarez, each participant volunteered to walk twelve laps to reach the goal of 6,000 laps. Prior to their laps, each walker was given the names of twelve soldiers in whose honor they were walking. To motivate the walkers, boards featuring photos, ages, dates, and causes of death of fallen soldiers were on display throughout the track.

"Today we are intending to honor more than 6,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to insure our freedoms," remarked Mr. Suarez to the gathered crowd prior to the first ceremonial lap. "Their sacrifices will only mean something as long as we remember. Today, we remember."

In addition to the students and staff, Raymond Calero was on hand to encourage and walk alongside the participants. Mr. Calero's son, Major Jeffrey R. Calero, a member of the Army Special Forces, gave his life on October 29, 2007 during his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Following the ceremonial first lap, participants had the opportunity to sign cards that would be sent to soldiers currently serving in the armed forces. Concessions were also on sale throughout the day, with all proceeds being donated to an organization for wounded soldiers.



Letters of Intent

Family, friends, coaches, and school administrators celebrated Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School seniors Philip Jerome "PJ" Page and Chelsea Williams as both students signed letters of intent to play collegiate basketball.

PJ signed his letter of intent to play guard and small forward for the Division II Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference of Caldwell College. According to his coach, Stephen Rebholz, PJ was a four-year varsity player who led the Eagles in scoring and blocked shots for the 2010-2011 school year. During his years on the team, he was named an All-League, All-Conference, and All-County player. In addition to his full athletic scholarship, PJ received an academic scholarship and will major in criminal justice.

Five-year varsity player Chelsea will take her talent to the East Coast Conference as she plays guard for the Long Island University, C.W. Post Pioneers. Earlier this year, Chelsea became only the sixth girls basketball player in Copiague history to score 1,000 points. She ended her Lady Eagle career with a total of 1,266 points. She is a three-time All-County player and was selected to the first team All-Long Island in her senior year. While at C.W. Post, Chelsea will major in accounting.

"All of us in the Copiague family are extremely proud of both PJ and Chelsea," remarked Director of Physical Education and Athletics Peter Cesare. "We wish them well in their future academic and basketball careers."



AHA AED

Whether a student is learning in a classroom or playing a sport on the athletic field, their safety is always a top priority of the Copiague School District. To that end, the District would like to thank the American Heart Association (AHA) for their donation of two automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The AEDs will be used by the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Athletic Department and in the Copiague Middle School nurses' office.

"Our mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke," wrote AHA representative Yamise Fields in a letter to the District. "As part of the commitment to the American Heart Association, the Long Island Board of Directors dedicated this year's annual fund to purchase automated external defibrillators for selective local schools for emergency use during physical activity on school grounds."



REMEMBERING A LOST FRIEND

Earlier this year, Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School junior and member of the track and cross-country teams Christopher Urban passed away unexpectedly. To honor Christopher's memory and his commitment to the team and sport he loved, coaches George Schroeder and John Sack organized the First Annual Urban Memorial Track Invitational.

"Sacrifice, dedication, perseverance: these were not just words to Chris, they were a daily ritual," stated Mr. Schroeder.

With rain steadily flowing throughout the day and teams traveling from as close as Lindenhurst to as far east as Mattituck, the sun was able to break through the clouds as the first event began. In addition to the standard track-and-field events, fifth graders from the three elementary schools - Deauville Gardens, Great Neck Road, and Susan E. Wiley - participated in a special 4x100 relay, with each participant receiving a medal.



Spring Sports Round-up

Sport Spring	Name	Grade	Award
Boys Lacrosse	Theodore Wright	12	All-County
Boys Spring Track	Jarrick Ambrose	12	All-League 100
Boys Spring Track	Johnathon Argueta	10	All-League 4x400 Relay
Boys Spring Track	Michael Benson	11	All-League 110HH
Boys Spring Track	Justin Brown	11	All-League Triple Jump
Boys Spring Track	Desmond Guidroz	11	All-League 4x400 Relay
Boys Spring Track	Ernesto Medina	11	All-League 4x400 Relay
Boys Spring Track	Wesley Merriwether	11	All-League 1600
Boys Spring Track	Darryl Mitchell	12	All-League Shotput
Boys Spring Track	Devin Pettaway	12	All-League 400IH
Boys Spring Track	Wade Richardson	12	All-League High Jump/All-County High Jump
Boys Spring Track	Erman Robinson	12	All-League Discus
Boys Spring Track	Rolando Rowe	12	All-League 400IH; All-League 4x400 Relay
Boys Spring Track	Max Woelk	12	All-League 4x400 Relay/ All-County Academic
Girls Spring Track	Ashley Arquer	10	All-League/All-County
Girls Spring Track	Tiffany Bourne	12	All-League/All-County Academic
Girls Spring Track	Druscilla Dickson	12	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Janel Francis	11	All-League/All-County/ Newsday 2nd Team All Long Island
Girls Spring Track	Ashley Jackson	10	All-League
Girls Spring Track	Cypher McCloud	11	All-League/All-County
Baseball	Anthony Giordano	12	Academic All-League
Baseball	Damian Lester	12	All-League, Gold Glove
Softball	Lauren Handy	10	All-Division
Girls Lacrosse	Johanna Avila	12	Unsung Hero
Girls Lacrosse	Jessica Murphy	11	All-Division

FALL SPORTS PHYSICALS

On Thursday, August 11 from 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm in the **middle school nurse's office**, sports physicals will take place. These physicals will be for all high school and middle school students who plan on participating in fall sports.

Honoring Spring Sports

More than 150 high school students from Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School were honored at the school's Spring Sports Awards Night. 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, the Daniel O'Connell and Jarred Pennington Memorial Awards were presented to one member of the baseball and lacrosse teams, respectively. The winners of the awards were baseball player Anthony Giordano and lacrosse player Damien Hicks.

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 Druscilla Dickson, Randy Fernandez, Julia Flamenco, Paul Lopez, Leslie Morgan, Javon Nunes, Rolando Rowe, Terrick Simms, and Maxwell Woelk.

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, Maxwell Woelk (Boys Track), Gregory Lane (Baseball), Diane Lam (Girls Lacrosse), Ashley Simon (Girls Track), George Scales (Boys Lacrosse), and Emily Clark (Softball) received the Golden Eagle.

SCIENCE Smarts

This year, the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School offered an independent science research class for ninth-grade students. Throughout the year, the students worked on a project of their choosing with assistance from teachers Denise Raimondi and Clare Nugent.

To conclude their research, five students entered the Long Island Science Congress competition for the first time in Copiague history, in which they had to present their findings to a panel of judges. Veronica Zieba placed among the top three at the junior level with her project "Effects of iPods on Hearing Loss." Veronica began her research while still in the middle school under the direction and guidance of Monica Csorny and Dr. Daniel Leccesse. Also receiving recognition at the competition, Alessandra Altruda placed fourth in the senior division with her project "Installation of Wind Turbines at Copiague Middle

School." In addition to her good showing at the Long Island Science Congress, Alessandra received a \$200 scholarship from the Babylon Covantage Environmental Competition for her project.

Additionally, Stephanie Fischer, Tara Kurdzos, and Isabella Formes received certificates of achievement for their participation in the Long Island Science Congress.



You're a Grand Old Flag

Students and staff at Deauville Gardens Elementary School dressed in patriotic red, white, and blue as they gathered together in the school's gymnasium to honor our nation's flag and the many freedoms it represents during their Flag Day celebration.

With mini American flags waving, the students welcomed members of the Copiague Fire Department and the New York Air National Guard based out of Westhampton Beach. During the ceremony, patriotic songs such as "God Bless the U.S.A." and "You're a Grand Old Flag" were sung, American flag trivia was asked, and essay contest winners read their essays aloud. Congratulations to Madeline Sims (kindergarten), Curtis Doxey (first grade), Emma Rosenberg (second grade), Marilu Vargas and Isabelle Galarza (third grade), Justin Klei (fourth grade), and Deborah Stallings (fifth grade) for their winning essays.

Teachers Natalia Brite, Ashley Price, Michelle Rush, and Philomena Russo organized the event.

It's a Garden Party

Four kindergarten classes at the Great Neck Road Elementary School enjoyed a day filled with outdoor activities, despite the sweltering heat. The activities included duck-duck goose, softball, and free play on the playground. Teachers provided students with a number of refreshments and goodies, including watermelon, juice, cookies, and even necklaces and sunglasses.



According to kindergarten teacher Erica Letts, this fun-filled day serves as an "end-of-the-year celebration of the kindergarteners' first year together at Great Neck Road, while also allowing the students to meet children outside of their own classroom."

Word of the Week Parade

Throughout the year, the staff at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School collaborated to select an important vocabulary word to be highlighted each week, based on the character education trait of the month. Students took turns announcing the word with its definition, synonyms, antonyms and origin over the loudspeaker



each morning. Teachers enhanced the program by providing extended vocabulary activities in their classrooms to increase students' interest in, and knowledge of, vocabulary.

To culminate the year-long Word of the Week program, students in grades 3-5 selected a word and created a costume to represent the word's meaning in a creative way. The students donned their homemade costumes and paraded through the school as the younger students lined the hallways and cheered them on.

School Opens
September 6!



Honored for Service

Members of the Copiague Board of Education held a special ceremony prior to the June 6 Board meeting for district administrators, faculty, and staff to give thanks to this year's retirees. The retirees were honored for their many years of dedicated service to the students and community. During the thirty-minute ceremony, members of the Madrigal Choir, under the direction of Gina Occhiogrosso, sang two song selections, "In This Life" by the Beatles and a personalized version of "So Long, Farewell" from The Sound of Music.

The Board of Education and administration extend their best wishes to the retiring staff of the Copiague School District:

Sandra Apergis, HS ESL Teacher, 26 years
Ursula Hagenlocher, MS Food Service Worker, 26 years
Jan Leimone, DG Elementary Teacher, 28 years
Nina Marchese, GNR Cook Manager, 26 years
Margaret Ronner, HS Clerk Typist, 30 years
Dr. Julia Tedeschi, MS ELA Staff Developer-Reading, 32 years
Larry Wurtzel, HS Music Teacher, 40 Years



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