

New Greenhouse Allows Hands-on Horticulture Lessons All Year

Over the past several years, the East Quogue Union Free School District has applied a keen focus to the study of horticulture by using a plethora of educational tools and instructional spaces. As part of the March 2018 bond approved by the community, East Quogue Elementary School constructed a greenhouse, which is attached to the school building.

Since the recent completion of the project, students across grade levels have been visiting this comprehensive instructional space, discussing the greenhouse effect and planning seed-starting for the upcoming growing season. With the addition of the greenhouse, students' hands-on study of horticulture can continue year-round and is enhanced through the discussion of key areas of this unique science. These conversations include such topics as germination, propagation,

hydroponics, composting, seed saving, bird and butterfly tracking, worm bins, native pollinator planting, sensory gardens, adaptations and habitats, hibernation and migration, cool weather crops, warm weather crops and planting in our specific zone. This year, students will begin planting seeds indoors and explore the plant hardening process to successfully transfer crops to our outdoor garden.

As the school year progresses, students in each grade level will be alternating participation throughout the week in lessons and activities in the greenhouse and our outdoor garden space. Our third and fifth grade students are collaborating to create a native pollinator garden along with a monarch butterfly waystation to learn about the importance of native plants and monarch butterflies as pollinators in our garden.



A Look Inside Our School



Mask Design

Students in fourth grade recently participated in a STEAM activity where they developed creative designs to modify masks to fit people more comfortably.



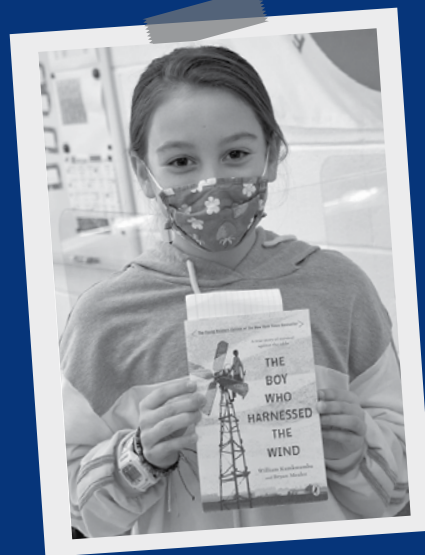
Writers Workshop

First grade students have been expanding their writing skills through activities using the Writers Workshop model of learning.

Legend of Bigfoot



As part of a recent lesson, fourth grade students read the book "The Legend of Bigfoot" and created an advertisement-style poster based on the story.



STEAM

Students in sixth grade have been reading the book "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" to learn about sources of renewable energy and will be culminating the lesson with a STEAM activity showcasing their newfound knowledge.

Art

In art, students have been exploring abstract art and created works of art inspired by this style by adding lines and a variety of colors to simple images.



Student Council Collaborates to Create Connections Throughout the Community

Through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, many clubs, activities and events have taken on a different appearance. Although these initiatives may take place in a new format, the importance of continuing them is greater than ever. In alignment with this sentiment, a dedicated collection of student-leaders at East Quogue Elementary School have continued to meet as part of the Student Council.

Composed of fifth and sixth grade students and under the guidance of

sixth grade teachers Jackie Alessi and George Purkis, the Student Council meets bimonthly via Google Meet after school to abide by COVID-19 protocols and procedures. During these meetings, students collaboratively discuss and develop activities and initiatives for the school community to participate in to further create a sense of togetherness.

As part of their activities this year, the Student Council has worked together to develop a collection of school spirit days and has created the



advertisements to promote them. The council recently held a special event as part of National Compliment Day, where they encouraged their peers to pay genuine compliments to someone in their life.

Additionally, this essential student group is working to build a Free Little Pantry, which will be used to collect food to donate to those in need within the East Quogue community.

An *Expedition* of Self-exploration

In today's ever-evolving world, it is more important than ever to empower the students of East Quogue Elementary School with the necessary social and emotional tools to navigate the challenges presented.

With this idea in mind, the district has implemented SEL activities for students across grade levels.

Among the collection of initiatives led by school counselor Gina Marino are lessons on bullying,

problem-solving, goal setting and being an upstander. Through these lessons, students explore their own actions and those of others and the feelings associated with situations they may encounter. As an additional component of the activities, students participate in a class discussion on the topics, sharing their feelings and ideas.

As part of lessons focused on interest and skill identification, students participated in activities on community helpers, the role they play, why they are important and what type of community helper they might want to

be in the future. Students have also received lessons on identifying their learning styles, how to utilize available resources and the role of the school counselor, as well as resources on career exploration, college exploration and technical career exploration.

As the year progresses, students will continue to engage in lessons focused on exploring their emotions and strengthening their abilities to identify their skills and interests while also utilizing the essential resources available to them as students and members of the community.



Postal Patron
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Please remember to visit the district website to view all recent school news.

Bond Work Completion Adds Infrastructure Updates and Enhanced Educational Areas

In the past several months, all projects associated with the community-approved March 2018 bond have been completed.

During phase 1 of the bond, the portable structure was demolished and the construction of a permanent fixture housing two classrooms, one large group instructional space and three small group instructional spaces were completed. This phase also included the construction of the building's new security vestibule and office, from which our staff securely monitors the footage from the district's enhanced security cameras that are located throughout the campus. During phase 2 of the bond

work our parking lot was reconstructed, and we added a new STEAM lab, new student restrooms, new case work in fifth grade classrooms and our new greenhouse. Also, a new natural gas line was placed, and sound and lighting upgrades were added in the cafetorium.

With the completion of this essential work to the school building, the district has added long-lasting infrastructure updates while improving educational areas and experiences for all students. The district thanks the community for its immense support throughout this process.

New STEAM Lab Dedicated to *Pillar of the Community*

The school recently hosted a special ceremony to dedicate the building's new STEAM lab, which was included as part of the March 2018 bond approved by the East Quogue community, to Kevin Crowe.

Mr. Crowe is an important member of the East Quogue community whose donations throughout the years have fueled countless educational opportunities in science for our students, such as field

trips and the use of new equipment.

"East Quogue Elementary School is honored to dedicate our new STEAM lab to Kevin Crowe," said Principal and Superintendent of Schools Robert Long.

"His endless support of our science program is everlasting, and his donations have propelled our student's exploration of science to new heights."

