

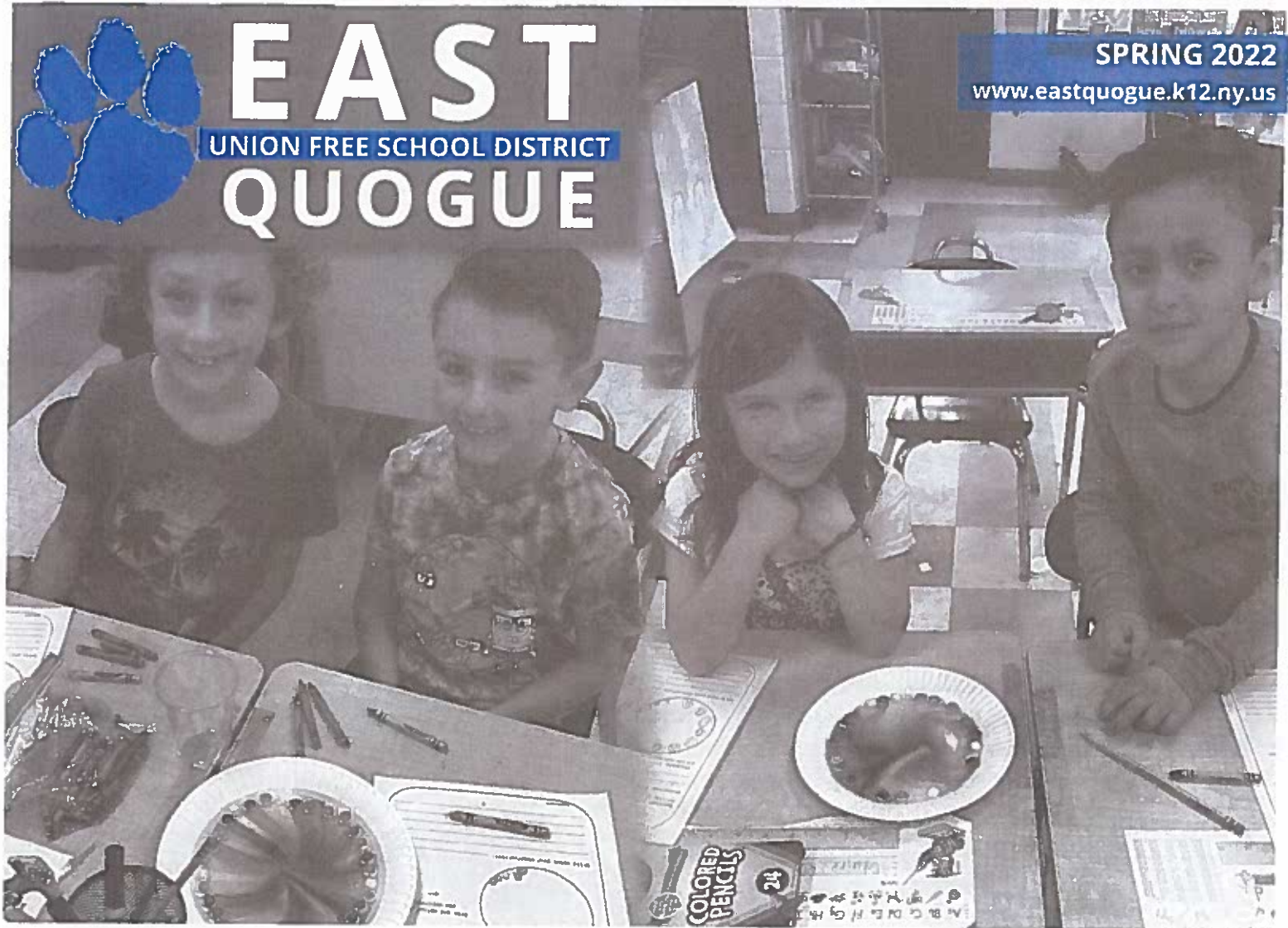


EAST QUOGUE

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2022

www.eastquogue.k12.ny.us



Students Thrive with Well-Rounded, Enriched Educational Programs

The East Quogue Elementary School has been buzzing with activity and student chatter both in school and afterschool, thanks to the return of the district's full breadth of clubs and programs this year.

The well-rounded, enriched educational offerings, including Drama Club, Earth Rangers, Intramurals, Math Olympiad, Scrabble Club and Student Council, among others, have been providing students with opportunities to continue to learn and grow. Since the beginning of the school year, the district has gradually brought back access to all programs that students have enjoyed in previous years.

In the classroom, teachers have created a new

environment for their students to promote a sense of school spirit and community involvement. They've been gathering on the colorful rugs to read books together and encouraging students to collaborate with their peers through small-group projects. Through their participation in clubs and during recess, the students have also been able to connect with friends from other classes and grade levels. After being separated for two years, students and educators are thrilled to be back together.

The sense of normalcy that echoes throughout the district has empowered students to thrive, feel motivated and be happy on their educational journey.

Clubs and Activities

As part of the **Student Council**, fifth and sixth graders have been meeting to collaborate on ways they can improve their school, community and the world. Club advisers Jackie Alessi and George Purkis said the students gain leadership skills and learn how to work with others for a common purpose. This year, club members held a food drive to keep the Little Free Pantry stocked for anyone who may be in need in the East Quogue community. They also partnered with ThinkKindness.org to collect sneakers for children of all ages in Africa. In addition, over the last few years, the students have created school spirit days to keep their community connected even when they couldn't gather in large groups because of the pandemic.

"Student Council is a very social place where you can learn and be passionate," sixth grader Mia Flores said. "You do very nice things for other people. We also do artistic stuff like posters with friends. I joined because I heard it was fun and you get to see your friends. The Student Council is a very passionate and fun place."

"I liked intramurals because it was fun and at the same time it gave you exercise!" sixth grader Reilly Maloney said.

The **After School Academic Support Academy** was created using federal American Rescue Plan funds to address instructional gaps due to remote instruction and pandemic disruptions. The six-week-long program provided third through sixth grade students with instruction tailored to their individual needs for an hour. The students who participated in the program were recommended by teachers and support staff in math and English language arts.

Through the **intramurals** program, students participated in fourth, fifth and sixth grade sessions, each for an hour, once a week. They played sports and activities, including football, soccer, hockey, gaga ball and capture the flag, among others. The main goal of the intramurals program is for the students to be active and have fun in a safe environment, with emphasis on working together and practicing good sportsmanship and playing fair.

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Empower Students

The **Math Olympiad for Elementary and Middle School (MOEMS)**, an after-school math enrichment program at East Quogue, challenges students to solve a variety of math problems through fun-filled competitions. As a result, the students learn multiple strategies for out-of-the-box problem-solving, develop mathematical flexibility in solving those problems and foster mathematical creativity and ingenuity. In addition, the Math Olympiad provides students with the thrill of meeting challenges. The students are administered five monthly contests from November through March and scores are entered in the MOEMS system. At the end of the year, all participants are awarded certificates, as well as patches and pins for the top scorers, and a trophy for the top scorer.

Despite technology being in the forefront of much of today's world, East Quogue students have been enjoying an old-fashion board game as part of the **Scrabble Club**. They started by working with students that they chose as partners before moving on to work with other children as they grew in skill level. They discussed skills and strategies of how to play and learned the rules of the game. Most of all, the students had fun together and enjoyed themselves while unplugging for an hour.

The **Drama Club** has created a special documentary production, called "Annie: the Behind The Scenes Look at Our East Quogue Drama Club." Under the direction of musical director and club adviser Penni Russo and artistic director and collaborating director Grisel Baltazar, the documentary provides insight into how the club's musicals get rehearsed from start to finish and everything in between to make it to the performance-ready stage. The club brought together fourth, fifth and sixth graders with a passion for theater.

The **Homework Club** is a multigrade program that provides students with a quiet and supportive space to complete their homework assignments. During their club time, teachers are available to provide support, and answer the students' questions. As a result, the students are gaining confidence while working toward their academic goals.

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Activities Around Our School

Kindergartners Gain New Skills

Kindergarten students at East Quogue Elementary School have been gaining new skills in their classes, including science, math and writing. They've been learning all about the weather, discussing the difference between winter and spring. They've also been writing how-to books on various topics and learning about subtraction and numbers in their math classes. In addition, they learned about the biggest trees and used Keva planks to build a tree of their choice.

First Graders Write Personal Narrative Stories

In recognition of National Reading Month, first graders engaged in a variety of activities to celebrate the joy of reading. They worked on Small Moments stories, which encouraged them to focus on tiny moments from their lives

and stretch these moments out across pages to create personal narrative stories. As a culminating activity, the students will publish their pieces and share them with their classmates.

Engineering STEAM Activity

Second graders recently participated in a STEAM activity, where they practiced reverse engineering using prebuilt Lego structures. They enjoyed making observations and copying the structures. In addition to gaining engineering skills, they also learned about animals in their science classes, finished two-digit subtractions in math and completed their reading and writing workshop on realistic fiction.

Informational Books and Insects

As part of their writing unit, third graders created nonfiction books on a topic of their

choice and added text features to enhance their writing. In celebration of the end of the unit, they enjoyed reading each other's books and learning from their peers. In addition, the students have been engaged in a unit on animal adaptations in their science classes. To further solidify their knowledge, they were treated to a presentation where the students explored bugs and insects, using magnifying glasses and microscopes to get a closer look.

Fourth Graders Practice Foreign Language Skills

Fourth graders have been working on gaining new skills in their foreign language classes. They participated in a challenge to determine the locations, flags and capitals of all Spanish-speaking countries. As part of their STEAM classes, they participated in the Ball Run challenge and worked on a collaborative project using scaling and coordinate grids.

Recognizing Women's History, Black History Month

In social studies, fifth graders have been learning about westward expansion, as well as about Sacagawea and the expedition of Lewis and Clark. They also read "Restart" by Gordon Korman, created Instagram pages for famous women in recognition of Women's History Month and finished reading biographies of famous African Americans in recognition of Black History Month.

Wind-Powered Cars

Sixth graders recently created wind-powered cars, which required the use of a budget and 3D-printed component in their STEAM classes. They tested their cars for efficiency using artificial wind power, such as a fan or a hair dryer.