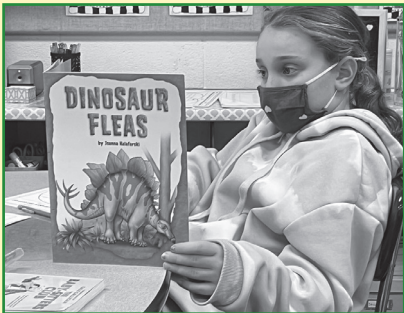




Learning in Action



Young engineers at Washington Drive created their own playground equipment.



TJL students used the Joanna Kalafarski book "Dinosaur Fleas" to compare and contrast dinosaur fleas and the fleas of today.



The high school's Pet Awareness Club partnered with the district's other schools for the annual Howliday Pet Supply Drive.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

Young Scientists Conduct Cutting-Edge Research with Cold Spring Harbor Lab

Harborfields High School science research students Anna Duff, Ava Green, Abby McGullam, Jack Steel, Liam Storm and Lindsay Sung are currently participating in the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Science Journal Club program. They visited their greenhouses in Woodbury, conducting cutting-edge research on gene modification of tomato plants to increase the tomato count, quicken the growth time, and decrease the nutrient needs of the plants to maximize food production to address world hunger.

Harborfields has participated in the CSH/BOCES Science Journal Club before, but in previous years, the school only sent two students, who attended with students from other schools. This year, Cold Spring Harbor Lab has



expanded the program and is working exclusively with Harborfields, and six students – ranging from 10th to 12th grade – participated. They will continue to work with the CSHL professionals through May.

"So far, it's been a great program with a lot of individual attention for each student from the scientists and data informationists," Principal Timothy Russo said.



A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,,

This edition of the Harborfields Highlights has been devoted to showcasing the extraordinary accomplishments of our students. As you read through each of the stories presented in this edition, it is important to keep in mind that our students are accomplishing all of this despite being in the midst of some of the more challenging times of the global pandemic. The day-to-day support of our teachers, administrators and staff combined with the unconditional love of their families has paved the way for our students to be at their best each day. Our community should be so proud of our collective efforts to come together in support of our students and our schools.

Of course, there are hundreds of stories of students doing extraordinary things each day which are not included in this newsletter. We are equally proud of them and remain focused on providing excellent programs that will support their academic and social-emotional growth. The work to develop and assess our programs is ongoing, and your responses to our recent surveys will guide the work needed to develop the district's Strategic Plan for the next five years. It was evident from the survey results that our community remains committed to supporting excellence in our schools through the development of new and innovative real-world learning experiences, supporting the mental wellness of our students, and ensuring that all students are welcomed and appreciated as we prepare them for success in an ever-changing global society. We are looking forward to unveiling the full plan later this year.

The development of the 2022-2023 budget is well underway. The community is encouraged to participate in the process by attending our Board of Education meetings, where monthly budget presentations are provided. In addition, be sure to visit our website to view the most up-to-date information on the budget development process.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our school and community events as we enter the final months of the school year. Coming together to celebrate the significant accomplishments of our students and staff is a cornerstone of the proud traditions of our Harborfields community!

Sincerely,
Rory Manning, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Field Hockey Team Takes **FIRST COUNTY TITLE**

Harborfields High School's varsity field hockey team won its very first Suffolk County championship. The 16-1-1 second-seeded Tornados, coached by Lauren Desiderio, took the title by defeating fifth seed East Islip 3-1 in a tense Suffolk Class B finals game held at Centereach High School on Nov. 1.



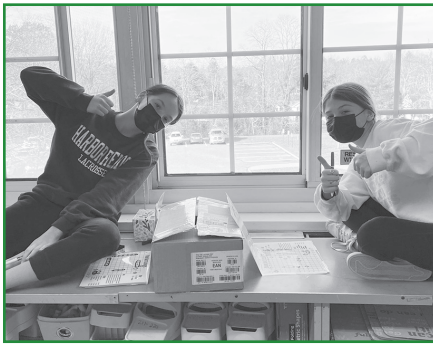
TRYING FOR THE **TALLEST TOWER** AT TJL

Fifth graders in Samantha Little's TJL science classes collaborated on a STEM building challenge. Their mission was to design and create the tallest tower made out of candy corn and toothpicks.

"We have been learning about the scientific method and using our engineering skills to create models using only the provided materials," Little said. "The students had a great time working with partners to try to ensure their tower was the tallest in the class."



Oldfield Sixth Graders Use Plotting Points to Play Battleship



Sixth graders in Alexandra Grabowski's math class at the middle school had fun playing Battleship using their knowledge of plotting points on a coordinate plane. The students had learned the skill the previous day using ordered pairs, then applied that concept to the familiar game Battleship. Grabowski laminated the game boards, consisting of two different coordinate planes. One coordinate plane was for their ships, corresponding to the points they plotted, while the other coordinate plane was for their guesses, corresponding to the ordered pairs they guessed on their opponents' boards.

"My students really solidified their understanding of plotting points and identifying points on coordinate planes and really loved the activity," Grabowski said.

Making Mindful Glitter Jars at Washington Drive

Guided by school psychologist Lauren Gallagher, students at Washington Drive learned about mindfulness and how staying in the present moment can help them remain calm, then created "mind jars" by upcycling water bottles and adding clear glue and glitter.

As part of the Planting SEEDS program, students at Washington Drive have been developing their social-emotional superpowers by expanding their emotional vocabulary, learning the neuroscience behind feelings and emotions, and developing tools that can

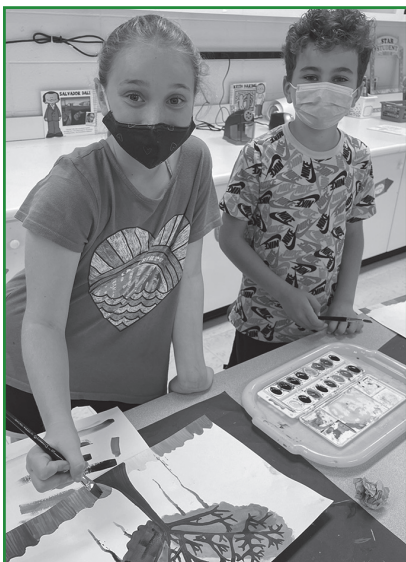
help them manage their big feelings. In this activity, each student made their own mind jar. When a mind jar is shaken, the glitter swirls around just like racing thoughts tend to do in one's mind. The class learned how to pair deep breathing with mindful observing of the swirling glitter as it slowly settled to the bottom.

"Through this simple and fun mind jar practice, these superheroes-in-training learned how to settle their own thoughts and bring about their own sense of calm," Dr. Gallagher said. "Mindfulness activities can help



students strengthen their cognitive performance, lower stress, improve classroom behavior, and develop better social skills."

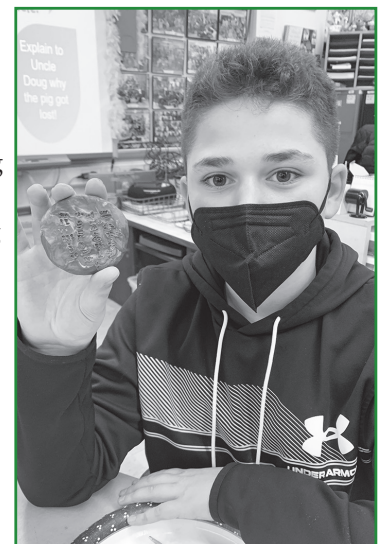
TJL's Fourth-Grade Artists Learn New Watercolor Techniques



Fourth graders in Stephanie Buscemi's art class at TJL explored the work of Kirsten Bailey, an Australian contemporary artist who draws her inspiration from nature. Students learned how to draw a tree using the letter "Y," then reviewed the color wheel and added color to their trees using watercolor paint in the order of the color wheel. Lastly, students reviewed patterns and applied them to their trees using markers.

CREATING CUNEIFORM WITH CLAY at OMS

Jennifer Klein's students at Oldfield created their very own cuneiform tablets while studying about life in ancient Mesopotamia. Trying their hands at being scribes, classes used modeling clay and worked to copy cuneiform letters and symbols by carving with wooden styluses.



Suzie Lustig, *President*
Christopher Kelly, *Vice President*
Susan Broderick
Eve Meltzer-Krief, M.D.
Hansen Lee
David Steinberg
Colleen Wolcott
Rory Manning, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

Shining STUDENTS

Harborfields Business Students Compete at DECA Regionals

The Harborfields High School DECA Club competed virtually at the annual DECA Suffolk County Regional Competition in December. Over 1,000 students from across the county participated in various competitions. In addition to preparing and studying for events, students also had to navigate testing and presenting virtually.

This year's DECA honorees from Harborfields included first-place winners Gavin Crawford (in the Principles of Finance category) and Sharon Lin (Apparel and Accessories Marketing), second-place winner Nicole Feibel (Business Services Marketing), and

fourth-place winners Sophia De Meo (Travel and Tourism Decision Making Team), Isabella Frangione (Principles of Hospitality and Tourism), Allison Grover (Travel and Tourism Decision Making Team), Ivie Mergille (Business Law and Ethics Decision Making Team), and Jamie Pisano (Business Law and Ethics Decision Making Team).

Regional finalists included Brianna Chavez (Personal Financial Literacy), Victoria Frangione (Principles of Hospitality and Tourism), Charlotte Hasher (Principles of Business Management and Administration), Vaughn Martin (Business Services



Marketing), Kathryn Poschmann (Restaurant and Food Service Management), and Jackson Thomas (Entrepreneurship).

Honorable mention designation went to Alexa Debus (Food Marketing), Sofia Montelli (Principles of Finance), and Zoe Sbarra-Vaughan (Principles of Marketing).

Harborfields Seniors Lauded for Boys and Girls State Selections



New York State Assemblyman Steve Stern visited Harborfields High School to present proclamations to 11 seniors who had been selected last year for the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State summer leadership and citizenship programs. Recognized for this achievement were Chad Berlent, Quintin Gegwich, Anna Gosselin, Wyatt LaFountaine, Christian McNally, Andrew Palermo, Nicholas Ruisi, Nicolas Saliou, Jack Steel, William Sullivan, and (not pictured) Moore Theobald.