



## Learning in Action



As part of their writing workshop, students in Mrs. Flood's kindergarten class at Washington Drive Primary School colored and labeled the parts of a gingerbread man.



Third-grade students at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School attended a presentation with scientist and author Steve Tomecek, known as "The Dirtmeister." Tomecek expanded on the science curriculum, teaching students more about electricity.



Students in Oldfield Middle School's STEAM Club participated in the school's second annual STEAM Expo. The students showcased their creations, including a car operated by a smartphone, for parents and faculty members.

# Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

*The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District*

TRANSPARENCY,  
ACCOUNTABILITY,  
HONESTY AND INTEGRITY:

## My Pledge to the Community



*A Letter from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Francesco Ianni*

As I assumed the role of superintendent of schools earlier this month, it became my immediate goal to ensure that the days ahead yield achievement, pride and success for the Harborfields Family. I am honored and excited to serve as your superintendent and I assure you that I appreciate the unique possibilities that my job offers as well as the enormous responsibilities it entails. I am humbled by the trust the Board of Education has placed in me and grateful to them for their faith in me. I intend to work in partnership with the Board to guide this district to the next level of excellence.

If the flight attendant on my plane from Italy to New York on January 12, 1994 would have told me that in 23 years I would master the English

language and become the educational leader of the best district on Long Island, I would have laughed. It has been a long, amazing and rewarding journey.

To share a bit about myself, I am the proud father of two teenagers: Vincenzo, a high school sophomore, and Alba, a freshman. My wife, Anna, and I have been married for 23 years. She is a schoolteacher and a wonderful, caring mother. I graduated from New York University and taught mathematics at the secondary and college level for the past 18 years. I enjoy spending time with my family in addition to bike riding, running and swimming. Fortunately, I am not new to this community. I have been a member of the Harborfields Family for the past 10 years with a small break when I served

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# *A Letter from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Francesco Ianni*

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as principal at Division Avenue High School in Levittown.

Working with students, teachers, administrators and parents has been the highlight of my career and I believe that together we have much in common: we all love our children more than anything else in the world, we care about our future, we care about our community, and we know that educating our students cannot be done alone. I am committed and prepared to lead our school district and provide ALL of our students with the highest level of education. Together, one family at a time, one child at a time, we will achieve greatness and bring our district to places we never thought possible.

As we move forward, my main focus will center on transparency, accountability, honesty and integrity. My role as superintendent coincides with a critical time of year – the creation of our district budget.

It will be my top priority to work with our Board to present a financial plan that is fiscally sound and consistent with the tradition of excellence that our students and community expect and deserve. I encourage you to visit our website to stay informed of the latest news from our district.

I am excited to lead the Harborfields Central School District to a brighter future together. I believe that our partnership will pay priceless dividends for our students' accomplishments.

I wish you and your family a happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Francesco Ianni  
Superintendent of Schools

# A Vision FOR THE Future

In an ever-changing world, the main purpose of the Harborfields Central School District will be to continue to make ours the best and most innovative school district in the nation. Our students will learn how to become successful in a cultural and technological environment that will appear very different than it does today. To make this vision for the future a reality, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni has set a plan to address six main areas, detailed below.

## Board of Education

The superintendent will work with the Board on issues related to governance, management, core values and beliefs. A strong relationship between the Board and the superintendent is essential for district progress, and they will work together to build an agenda that is student-centered. To support this goal, the superintendent will engage in one-on-one meetings with Board members to deepen relationships and broaden perspectives, as well as work to review and create policies, provide the Board with updates of the district's programs, and promote efficiency of operation with respect to Board agendas, meetings and communication.

## Administrative Team

As the new superintendent, Dr. Ianni will work with the administrative team to clearly communicate the district's vision and mission. As a team, they will continue to focus on maintaining the needs of each student so that they can become successful citizens of the world. Among other efforts, Dr. Ianni will meet with the entire administrative team, teachers and staff to communicate his vision and expectations, conduct site visits to schools and classrooms, and create systems to monitor student performance in each building to provide support to teachers in order for them to make sound instructional decisions.

## Innovation

Innovation in our teaching and learning will allow our students to be successful citizens in an ever-changing, digital-centric world. The superintendent will place major emphasis on the district's technology as the tool to elevate teaching and learning. This requires strong leadership capable of creating a shared vision in which all members of the community will be involved. All learners will have engaging and empowering educational experiences in both formal and informal settings that prepare them to be active, creative, knowledgeable and ethical participants in our globally connected society.



## Business and Finance

Prudent financial practices and operations are critical components of any successful school district. A complete review and understanding of the current strengths and operational processes that are in place is a priority focus. In collaboration with the assistant superintendent for business, Dr. Ianni will assess all operational divisions to determine how each can continuously improve to maximize efficiencies while maintaining the same or higher level of support and services to our schools.

## Community Relationships

A strong relationship with our community is very important for the success of our students. During Dr. Ianni's first 100 days as superintendent, he will place great emphasis on openness and transparency in all communication systems and protocols used both internally and externally. He will work with the PTA, SEPTA, Harborfields Alumni and Community Educational Foundation and Harborfields Alliance for Community Outreach to organize a "Meet the Superintendent" program, enhance the district website and use of social media, and strengthen relationships with key communicators in the district, among other efforts.

## Educational Leadership – Student Engagement

It is the responsibility of every employee to ensure that each student graduates from Harborfields ready for college and/or a career. To do this, it must be understood that students come first. We will be relentless in asking the following questions: What is.... and how is this best for our students? How will this positively impact our students? To help us answer these questions, the superintendent will review and analyze data on student achievement, review course offerings and curricula, become familiar with music, art, athletic and extracurricular activities, and attend student leadership classes to discuss continuous improvement and accountability for academic achievement.

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Dr. Francesco Ianni, *Superintendent of Schools*

# Shining STUDENTS

## Students Showcase Excellent Character

In an effort to promote character education at Washington Drive Primary School, a number of kindergarten through second-grade students were recognized during the December Character Counts assemblies for displaying excellent character inside and outside of the classroom.

Eighteen kindergarteners, 16 first-graders, and 18 second-graders were nominated by their teachers for showcasing character traits such as honesty, bravery, responsibility and respect. Every student received a letter congratulating them on a job well done.



## Recognizing Positive Traits

At Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students who displayed a specific character trait of the month were nominated by teachers and peers.

During October, 33 students were awarded a certificate for exhibiting the trait of fairness, while in November, 25 students were recognized for their generosity to others.

“Since the students spend so much time in school, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to expose them to and teach them about the importance of possessing these invaluable traits,” said Principal Marguerite Greene.

## Student Musician Receives Prestigious Honor

At Harborfields High School, senior Hannah Bartfield received the opportunity of a lifetime when she performed with the National Association for Music Education All-National Honor Band. The music student impressively sat first chair in the trumpet section for the group.

Through a competitive process, she was selected at the end of the last school year as one of only 18 high school trumpet players in the entire country to be a part of the NAFME All-National Honor Band.



## Outstanding Community Service

Oldfield Middle School selected eighth-grade student Lauren Pisano as the school's annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award winner. The Prudential Spirit of Community Award program honors middle and high school students for outstanding service at the local, state and national level.

The school selected Lauren as an honoree to continue on for state-level judging. She will find out in February if she qualifies to become a finalist, as only one middle school and high school student from New York can be deemed a state honoree. Students who continue on in the competition have a chance to receive cash awards and grants.

Lauren has dedicated more than 500 hours to helping others. She volunteers daily at her church food pantry and took part in coordinating the church's holiday giving tree, which provides items to less fortunate families during the holiday season. She also participates in Project Hope, making sandwiches to feed the homeless every month, and is involved in Respite, a club that works with those with special needs.