

Spring 2018

# Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## LEARNING BEYOND *the Classroom*

Experiences – they are the building force behind learning new topics and forming ideas. Students throughout the Lynbrook Public Schools do not gain experiences solely from their academic day in the classroom. Although in-class lessons are important, experiences can travel further than a formal curriculum, giving students a variety of opportunities to find their likes and dislikes while engaging in new material. Extracurricular programs and organizations play significant roles in enhancing students' perception of the world around them and their social-emotional well-being, while helping them acquire new skills.

In the Lynbrook Public Schools, students have the opportunity to become involved in numerous clubs and organizations throughout the school year. Schools offer extracurricular programs both before or after school for students to explore. At the elementary level, students can find their passion for volunteer work as part of their school's Student Council, strengthen their love of science through Junior Scientist, embrace their love of theater with Drama Club or learn another language and culture

with Foreign Language Club. As grade levels increase, so does the amount of extracurricular opportunities for students. Middle school clubs range from art to Cooking/Culture Club, as well as an eighth-grade peer leadership program and TV Production Club. This wide assortment allows students to find a program that fits their personal interests.

Closer to the real world than ever before, Lynbrook High School students can participate in multiple clubs and organizations throughout the school year to prepare them for the next chapter of their lives. This involvement is not just beneficial for their résumés as they prepare to graduate, but also gives them the skills to grow as a team player and leader in the school and throughout the community. The high school provides an extracurricular program for every interest. Students are involved in Chess Club, the fall musical/spring drama, Film Club, the school's newspaper club Horizon, Key Club, Mathletes, Robotics, SADD, Science Olympiad, and Speech and Debate Club, among others.



Members of Waverly Park Elementary School's Foreign Language Club.

## THE BENEFITS OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



### ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

Studies show a correlation between improved grades, behavior and work habits as a result of students' involvement in after-school activities.



### CAREER AND INTEREST EXPLORATION

Students can pursue topics outside of a standardized academic context. These activities give them the opportunity to explore areas they have never encountered before, exposing them to a more diverse range of interests.



### SELF-ESTEEM BOOST

Mastering new skills can help build confidence in students. By participating in extracurricular activities, they can build their self-esteem in a relaxed setting as their activities provide the opportunity to be successful in something that they are passionate about.



### SOCIALIZATION

Extracurricular activities allow students to build relationships and socialize with peers who share similar interests. They can meet friends from different social groups.



### TEAMWORK SKILLS

Extracurricular activities require students to work together toward a common goal. They develop the skills needed to successfully work with others.



# CLUB Spotlights

## Spotlighting Culture

To further students' passion for language and other cultures, each elementary school offers after-school foreign language clubs for third- and fourth-graders, highlighting the Spanish and Italian languages and cultures. Each language unit is taught by a specific teacher for about six weeks. At Waverly Park Elementary School, third- and fourth-graders are welcomed to join Foreign Language Club, facilitated by teachers Rebecca Krieger and Marisa Cellucci. Each grade level meets once a week on different days. Fourth-graders continue to hone their skills from the previous year and third-graders are introduced to the language and culture. The students participate in songs, games and group work to help them get accustomed to the new language. They also learn how to communicate basic information such as names, age, birthdays and weather, and learn about various cultural aspects of the target language.

"The goal of having this club outside of the classroom is for students to have fun and get comfortable with the language," Ms. Krieger said. "Through playing games and singing fun songs with their peers, students are learning valuable information and are then able to apply it and recall it for the weeks to come!"

The exploration of foreign cultures does not end once students reach middle school. Lynbrook South Middle School offers a Cooking/Culture Club for all sixth-through eighth-graders. The club has approximately 30 members and meets for about eight sessions during the school year. The students have done everything from cutting vegetables to baking gluten-free cookies, cupcakes and pizza bagels. Throughout the process, the students learn about the ingredients and history of the items they are making.



*Lynbrook South Middle School students in Cooking/Culture Club baked together.*

## Lynbrook High School's Debate Club

One of Lynbrook High School's newest clubs, Speech and Debate Club, allows students to grow their public-speaking skills and their confidence. Only in its second year, it is open to all grade levels.

The club's goals are aligned with the National Speech and Debate Association's mission, which "connects, supports and inspires a diverse community committed to empowering students through competitive speech and debate." The students receive debate resolutions from the South Shore Speech and Debate League at least two weeks prior to their competition. During preparation, they define key concepts, establish contentions for both the affirmative and negative viewpoints, and collect evidence to defend their stance. Once their arguments are established, the students practice debating, first as individuals and then in public forum teams. Competition day allows students to participate in two rounds to argue both sides.

"Students need to anticipate arguments presented by the opposing side," said adviser Carol-Ann Winans. "They need to dissect each argument in order to present information in a way that breaks down the opponents' argument and sways the judge."



*Freshmen Samantha Shea (left) and John Walloch (right) at the Debate Club's first competition for the 2017-18 school year.*

## Marion Street Junior Scientist

Lynbrook Schools have expanded students' opportunity to build, collaborate and problem-solve with clubs that focus on STEAM activities. Marion Street School offers Junior Scientists, an after-school science club for third- and fourth-graders that meets once a week. Facilitated by teachers Alexandra Rosenthal and Christie Tuzzio, students transform into engineers as they are given challenges, situations and scenarios each week that they work together to solve.

"When I get older I want to be an engineer so I really like the building portion of the club," said fourth-grader Payton Stalter. "I like planning, drawing out and coming up with ideas because I think of myself as a creative person. It's really fun to see our projects come to life."

Previous projects include students serving as toy engineers to create their own original toy out of a paper towel roll. Inspired by the 2018 Winter Olympics, club members also created a booth for Marion Street's Science Fair where they showcased their projects, which included a ski-lift chair, a moving bobsled made out of tinfoil and an ice-skating rink with mobile skaters.



*Marion Street fourth-graders Alexa Rutigliano (left) and Devin Ryan (right) worked together to make a toy out of a paper towel roll during Junior Scientist Club.*

## West End School's Drama Club

The stage is a perfect place for students to not only explore their talents but also gain confidence. From elementary to high school, Lynbrook Schools offer a drama club for students to further their passion for theater. At West End School, students in fourth and fifth grade participate in Drama Club under the guidance of music teacher Stella Kruh. The club runs from the first week of school in September until the day of their performance, with only one show per year. This year, students practiced "The Music Man Kids" about four to five times a week.

Drama Club positively affects students in several ways. They learn how to memorize lines, cues, songs and dance steps. The club helps students learn humility, improve reading and public-speaking skills and encourages them to socialize as they interact with others in different classes and grades.

"They learn teamwork and empathy as they jump into the roles they have to play," Mrs. Kruh said. "This year, several students who were not in chorus decided to join chorus and even our show choir as a positive result of succeeding in performing with the cast. They just needed the confidence to perform."



*West End Elementary School Drama Club students performed "The Music Man Kids" for their peers.*

## Ready, Set, Action!

Embracing this year's theme, "Where Tomorrow Begins Today," Lynbrook students have researched specific grade-level career topics. In addition to classroom work, clubs and organizations have helped introduce students to different career paths. Under the guidance of first-year adviser Kelly Napolitano, Lynbrook North Middle School students experience the world of television production with the school's unique TV Production Club. The club, which was established over 20 years ago, allows students to get involved in a student-produced news program, Lynbrook North TV.

Members meet twice a week, when they produce a live news show that airs in the morning during homeroom. Students can sign up at the beginning of each week to serve as on-camera news anchors and reporters, as well as producers, directors and technicians, preparing the TV equipment and ensuring that everything is working properly. Students also independently report, direct, and produce the show, sharing general announcements, weather updates, an arts and entertainment report, and sports news.

"For LNTV to run smoothly, all of the students need to work together as a team," Ms. Napolitano said. "They learn the value of collaboration when they work together to successfully air each production. The students learn that every role is essential to a successful production, and that they are an integral member of the team, whether they are a news anchor or behind the camera."



*Members of Lynbrook North Middle School's TV Production Club.*



# SAFETY FIRST

Lynbrook Public Schools continues to make security and the safety of all students a top priority. Of its many security features, the district has an established Districtwide School Safety Plan and a confidential Building-Level Emergency Response Plan for each building. Students and staff often practice drills using varying scenarios to prepare for the unexpected, and the district has strict protocols for all visitors who wish to enter the buildings. Additionally, school officials work closely with local law enforcement agencies to ensure that every building is equipped to handle emergency situations.

The district’s Smart Bond Implementation Plan (the spending plan) passed the first two initial review stages in February 2017 and is currently undergoing a line by line expenditure review to ensure that all items proposed are eligible for this type of funding. All construction plans have already been approved by the New York State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning. The district is unable to do any work until the Implementation Plan has been approved as well.

To ensure student and staff safety until the Smart Bond process is completed, the district has put a security plan in place for Lynbrook High School, the only building with an open campus. The school will have a security vestibule also

known as a holding area at the front entrance of the building. The remainder of the projects will be completed with the Smart Bond money since New York State will not reimburse the district if they begin working on all the security projects now.

To further ensure the safety of all who enter the district’s buildings, Dr. Burak partnered with East Rockaway Superintendent Lisa Ruiz in the fight to eliminate public voting in school buildings while school is in session. The superintendents crafted a letter to Nassau County Commissioners David Gugerty and Louis Savinetti asking that communities hold their elections at other venues for the safety of students since voters cannot be asked for identification when they enter the school buildings. As a follow up to that letter, the district has met with two attorneys from the Board of Elections who heard our concerns about safety and agreed to explore the feasibility of changing voting locations that meet the parameters required for voting facilities.

It is imperative for students, family members and community members to play an active role in keeping Lynbrook students safe. Please report to the school or local enforcement if you suspect or see something that the district might address as inappropriate.

## Alumni Spotlight

With an admiration for music, Lynbrook High School graduate Andrea Arias-Martin transformed from a spectacular student performer to a successful opera singer and business owner, as the founder of AAM Music Studio. Mrs. Martin graduated from Lynbrook High School in 2000. She shared many memories of those years, including her role in the school musicals and chorus throughout all four years of high school. She was also selected for the New York State School Music Association’s All-State Chorus during her junior and senior year.


“Lynbrook had the most supportive teachers, starting with Karen Ajamain at West End School and continuing with Sue Sussman at Lynbrook High School,” Mrs. Martin said. “Principal Dr. Barbarino wanted the music department to feel

## Songstress Makes Her Mark on the Stage and in the Community

important. I have the best memories!”

Mrs. Martin followed her love of music into college, enrolling at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University (now LIU Post) and earning her Bachelor of Music in 2005. She continued her studies at the Manhattan School of Music, where she received her Master of Music in 2008. As a talented singer, Mrs. Martin has performed for various opera companies such as the Chautauqua Opera in New York City and the Glimmerglass Festival.

Today, she enjoys sharing her passion for music with the community. As a result, Mrs. Martin founded her own music studio, where she teaches piano and voice lessons to many children from the Lynbrook Public Schools, and serves as song leader at the Holy Family Parish in Hicksville.



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**Communication Corner**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**JUNE 20**

**10 A.M. KC GRADUATION @ HS**  
**6 P.M. SM GRADUATION @ HS**  
**8 P.M. NM GRADUATION @ HS**

**JUNE 21**

**9 A.M. MS MOVING UP**  
**11 A.M. WP GRADUATION @ HS**  
**1 P.M. WE GRADUATION @ HS**  
**7 P.M. HS SENIOR PROM**


**JUNE 22**

**6 P.M. HS GRADUATION @ MS**

**JULY 3**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING @ AA**

**#GIVEAHOOTFOR...**



Follow Dr. Burak’s Twitter account, @LynbrookSupt. Look for weekly tweets with the hashtag #GiveAHootFor....

