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Mineola High School has announced the valedictorian, salutatorian and top 25 academic students for the Class of 2017. These students will lead the entire class of graduates to the stage at the Tilles Center to receive their diplomas in June.

Congratulations to:

(Bottom Row, L-R) Valedictorian Sandra Pinto, Salutatorian Elizabeth Ryan, Zachary Sloan, Serena Berger, Erica Sze-Tu, Jillian Palma, Michelle Vande Stouwe, Gabriella Martinez, David Lee, Reesa Rene and Monika Waszczuk.

(Top Row, L-R) Christina Cardinal, Brianna Lopes, Erin Talty, Kayleigh DiPietrantonio, Valerie Cobos, Erin Servinkas, Courtney Scheuer, Michael Valente, Neal Ressa, Emily Comito, Zachary Tarab, Anne Cripps, Athena Colacito and Andrew Desiderio.

Digital Citizenship

Meadow Drive School has been recognized as a Certified School for Digital Citizenship by Common Sense Education, a national nonprofit dedicated to helping students thrive in a world of digital media and technology. The school was chosen for its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to prepare students to use the immense power of digital media to explore, create, connect, and learn, while limiting the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy and cyber bullying. The distinction was the second one for the district as Jackson Avenue School received the honor last year and requalified for the award again this year.

“We applaud the faculty and staff of Meadow Drive School for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students’ education,” said Jessica Lindl, head of Common Sense Education. “The school deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills

they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large.”

Meadow Drive utilizes Common Sense Education’s innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources to teach students, educators and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting and managing online reputations, relationships and personal privacy and respecting creative copyright. The free resources are currently used in more than 90,000 classrooms nationwide.

“We’re honored to be recognized as a Common Sense Digital Citizenship Certified School,” said Principal Dr. SueCaryl Fleischmann. “By preparing our students to use technology safely and responsibly, we are providing them unlimited opportunities to maximize and personalize their learning.”

Jackson Avenue’s library media specialist Jennifer Dralle-Moreano, who was named a Digital Citizenship Educator last year, was named a Digital Citizenship Ambassador for 2016-17.

Mineola Union Free School District

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Extended Time to STEAM

With the success of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) initiatives expanding across New York, Mineola has increased the time its youngest students receive hands-on STEAM-specific education each week from 40 minutes to 80 minutes. Under the guidance of STEAM teachers Denise Maynard at Hampton Street and Katelynn Schmidt at Meadow Drive, the students are engaged in unique activities that foster all areas of development, team-building and STEAM skills. Shown here are just two examples of the more elaborate activities that can be tackled with the increased timeframes for our students.



First-graders Hailey and Kyla created the tallest tower in their class. "It's fun to work together," they said. "We learned that it's important to work slow and be careful."

HAMPTON STREET:

All first- and second-graders took on the Paper Tower Challenge, which asked students to use only 20 sheets of paper, scissors and their imaginations to build either the largest or most creative tower. "The children are just so excited for the activity, which incorporates all STEAM components in an authentic way," Ms. Maynard said of the challenge. "They have such a feeling of accomplishment and confidence because all students can succeed in this task." The challenge reinforced all parts of the Next

Generation Science Standards, such as force, weight, balance, height and length, measurement and engineering techniques.

MEADOW DRIVE:

To make it more fun for second-graders to learn states of matter, students used balloons filled with solids, liquids or gas to better visualize the differences. The STEAM activities always complement and support the classroom curriculum, while focusing on the scientific method and the importance of inference through observation. "Since we use inquiry-based learning, the extended time enables the students to explore and experiment, hands-on," said Ms. Schmidt. "It allows us to do more in-depth activities."



To incorporate Spanish into this dual language class' lesson, the text is written in both English and Spanish. "It's fun and at the same time, we are learning," said second grader Jared Taveras of the activity.

"If at first you don't succeed, build and build and build again." – Ms. Maynard



Mindfulness Through Movement

Jeanine Gallina, an art teacher at Jackson Avenue and Mineola Middle School, has brought mindfulness into the two school buildings. As a certified yoga instructor, Ms. Gallina has been hosting weekly after-school yoga classes for interested students.

As an intramural and not a club, students do not have to commit to attending each week, but rather can join whenever their schedules allow.

"Yoga has so many benefits and is a tool for students to use whenever they are having a difficult moment," said Ms. Gallina. "I love yoga and am so thankful the students are really embracing it. I've received a lot of positive feedback from them."

The response has been so overwhelming that Athletic Director Ralph Amitrano is looking for ways to expand the offerings not just within the two schools, but to the high school as well.



Honored for Leadership and Innovation

Superintendent of Schools Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D. received the Fred Podolski Leadership and Innovation in Technology Award at the Long Island Technology and Education Summit in October. Named in memory of Nassau BOCES' longtime director of curriculum, instruction and technology, the award is given to an educator who believes strongly in the impact technology can have on student performance. Dr. Nagler was chosen for his leadership and innovation in technology.

An educator for more than 29 years, Dr. Nagler understands the transformative power of technology in the classroom. Under his leadership,

the Mineola School District was among the first to begin a 1:1 take-home iPad initiative for students; has had two schools named as Apple Distinguished Schools; is the only district with a SMALLab, an inventive learning experience for students; became one of only 73 members nationwide in the League of Innovative Schools; and most recently, became the first district on Long Island with a Fabrication Lab, commonly referred to as a Fab Lab, where students learn, design, collaborate and build in a small-scale workshop environment.

"I believe strongly in the district's mission to create lifelong learners who contribute positively to a global society," Dr. Nagler said. "I learn every

day from our students and am constantly looking for ways to expand their growth and maximize their potential. Technology is just a tool that we can harness the power of to help us achieve these goals, and for students to have fun, take ownership of their work, and explore and learn in new ways."

Dr. Nagler has been with the Mineola School District for 17 years and has been a member of its administration since 1999. He holds a Doctor of Education from Columbia University. His digital portfolio, created with the district's coding platform KidOYO, can be viewed at: <http://michaelnagler.oysite.com/mainpage.html>.

ANTICIPATED

Art & Music Events

Middle School Musical – "Once on This Island, Jr."

Feb. 3 & 4 – Times and Tickets Available at www.mineola.k12.ny.us

Featuring:

Isabella Galan, Grade 7
Role of Asaka, Goddess of the Earth
"I always had a passion for acting, singing and dancing together and this is a great way to make new friends."



James Keese, Grade 7
Role of Daniel the Prince
"My favorite part is being able to get up there and act and do what I love to do."



District String Night

Feb. 13, 7 p.m. @ MHS

Featuring:

Kaitlyn McCarey, Grade 11
Violin
"I like learning new music. I love that we play more popular music during string night."



District Jazz Night

Feb. 9, 7 p.m. @ MHS

Featuring:

Sareem Jabbar, Grade 11
Alto Saxophone
"Mineola's music department is the best. The new rooms are awesome and our teachers are so supportive. They all want us to do our best and improve with our instruments. Jazz Night highlights all of our talents."



Art Supervisors Assoc. All-County Art Show

March 12, noon-4 p.m. @ SUNY Farmingdale

Featuring:

Ayden Laffey, Grade 4
Artwork: Treehouse*
"I like to mix the colors. This project used India ink, which was the first time I worked with it."



District Choral Night

March 2, 7 p.m. @ MHS

Featuring:

Zac Sloan, Grade 12
Bass in Dynamics, A Cappella and Mixed Chorus
"Choral Night spans all grade levels and it's really unifying. It's a chance for the younger grades to experience what music is like at higher levels and it keeps everyone engaged."



Luca Geeraerts, Grade 3
Artwork: World Famous Attraction: Big Ben (snowglobe)*
"I like that art lets me be creative and that we use our imaginations to decide what something is going to be."

*These are both works-in-progress. See the finished pieces on March 12!

Mission:

The mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is to inspire each student to be a life-long learner, pursue excellence, exhibit strength of character and **contribute positively to a global society.**

Saving the World from Scrap Metal

Residents of the district purged more than 5,000 pounds of unused and unwanted electronic waste in a recent e-waste drive held at Mineola Middle School. Local company Two Brothers Scrap Metal donated the use of a container to help dispose of the equipment, which otherwise would have made its way into a local landfill. Residents were urged to properly dispose of objects such as computers, printers, televisions, chargers and other electronic items during the daylong drive.

In its second year, the event was coordinated by the middle school's Robotics Club and Environmental Club, which helped to promote the drive within the community. The district thanks Two Brothers Scrap Metal for its support of the program and ensuring the proper disposal of these items.



Charitable Recycling



Denise Brennan's second-graders at Meadow Drive School are aspiring to be active participants in their community, as well as good citizens. Each week, a group of students from her class collects cans and bottles around the Meadow Drive School building. The five- or six-person crew then cleans and stores them. Parent volunteers collect the bag two or three times a month and, with their child, return them for deposit. In the spring, the class will use the money to shop for the food pantry at St. Aidan's Church in Williston Park.

Spirit of Service

Mineola High School junior Sofia Guirola has been named a local winner in the Prudential Spirit of Community awards program. As president of the school's Student Service Center, she is now nominated for a state-level award. Created in 1995, the Prudential Spirit of Community awards program is the United States' largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service. The program recognizes middle and high school students for their outstanding service to others, for making a difference on a local, statewide or national level, and for inspiring their peers to contribute to their communities.



Honored for Service

Eileen Burke, a teacher in the district for almost 30 years, has been recognized by the WE CARE Fund, the charitable arm of the Nassau County Bar Association, for her generous spirit and heartfelt concern for others.



Through her longtime affiliation with the school's Student Service Center, Ms. Burke has worked with WE CARE for more than 10 years. Attorney Martha Haesloop presented Ms. Burke with the plaque at the district's Nov. 10 Board of Education meeting.

"We would not be able to accomplish what we do without the assistance of Eileen and her students," said Ms. Haesloop. "Our guests often have positive comments on the caliber of her and the students of Mineola."

Ms. Burke has been co-director of Mineola High School's Student Service Center since 2004. In addition to her teaching duties, she oversees more than 400 students in the center and coordinates more than a dozen community service learning programs, including Lunch Bunch, Nursing Home Visitors, Peer Tutors, Habitat for Humanity, Prom Boutique, Gingerbread University and art auctions.

In recent years, Ms. Burke has been honored as a Distinguished Teacher by the Harvard Club of Long Island and as an Educator of Excellence by the New York State English Council. She is also a member of the Rockville Centre Library Board of Trustees, a community volunteer for RVC Little League Challenger League and a former Girl Scout leader.

The district is proud to have Ms. Burke as a member of its teaching staff and as co-director of the school's Service Learning Center.



Hands for Haiti

Motivated by District Instructional Leader Garry Desire, who has family members who were affected by the hurricane in Haiti, pre-K through second-grade students at Meadow Drive and Hampton Street schools have donated to the cause.

At Meadow, students donated one dollar to put their handprint on a banner that Mr. Desire will take with him to Haiti during his next visit. The banner, which is approximately 10 feet long, raised money that will directly be used to rebuild roofs on school buildings. Dubbed "Little Hands Helping Haiti," the school community raised more than \$700.

At Hampton Street, approximately \$600 was raised for families who lost homes in Haiti through a "Stuck for a Buck" fundraiser.

QR Code

The district is now featuring videos on its website that highlight students fulfilling our mission. Scan here to see some of our recent videos, including one on BlueBots and a yoga program.



Writer's Workshop

Under the guidance of the writing curriculum coordinator Jodi DeSantis-Helming, teachers in grades K-4 have been putting a stronger emphasis on students' writing skills. Based on teacher feedback of the need for a writing curriculum and more consistency across grade levels, Ms. DeSantis-Helming spent the summer researching and creating a new K-4 writing curriculum.

To prepare for the task, Ms. DeSantis-Helming attended Columbia University's Teachers College summer writing institute and based some of the curriculum on the Lucy Calkins method, which, according to her website, "holds that writing is a process, with distinct phases, and that all children, not just those with innate talent, can learn to write well."

"The idea is to start early so that students become skilled writers before getting to the upper grades," said Ms. DeSantis-Helming. "We wanted to give them a strong foundation, since writing transcends all subject areas. No matter what career a student ultimately pursues, writing will be a part of it."

At the core of the curriculum is reinforcing to students that "we are all authors." Teachers have begun utilizing language that reinforces students' beliefs that they are writers and are capable of creating their own stories.

Another key concept is that the pen is always in the writer's hands and he or she takes ownership of their work at all stages. Instead of a teacher marking up a student's work with edits and ideas, the student remains in control of their stories and talk ideas through with the teacher before making the edits themselves.

"Student choice is a key aspect," said Ms. DeSantis-Helming. "They choose what they are writing about. It becomes active learning instead of an assignment and it empowers them. We believe students can learn how to write well when they are writing about a topic about which they are passionate."

The new curriculum focuses on the

process of writing for the various forms – narrative, opinion and informational. Currently, all K-4 students are learning narrative stories. For example, in narrative writing, students will focus on a small moment (an experience at the beach in New Jersey) instead of a general event (the entire trip to New Jersey).

Parts of the process are taught to students during writer's workshops, which are held in each classroom for a 40-minute block of time. The workshops provide a structured and predictable routine, whereby students know that when it is time to write, everyone has to remain quiet in order to focus.

The workshop begins with a group lesson in which students learn a strategy. The teacher models the strategy with examples and may incorporate a mentor text, which is a published and completed work that integrates aspects of the lesson to serve as an example. The students then work with partners to practice the strategy together before going back to their desks to begin working on their own piece.

To conclude the lesson, students regroup at the end of the workshop and link what they wrote to the day's strategy.

The final stage of the process is to celebrate the product. To do so, each school hosts a Celebration of Narrative Writing, where students get to highlight and share one "published" piece of work. Hampton Street and Meadow Drive schools held these events in conjunction with their Special Person's Day in November.

Prior to implementation of the new initiative, Ms. DeSantis-Helming worked with teachers at the beginning of the school year to go over the



The Writing Process

1. Gathering/Collecting – a writer's notebook of thoughts/moments
2. Developing/Planning/Experimenting
3. Drafting
4. Revising
5. Editing
6. Presenting/Publishing
7. Celebrating the Finished Product

architecture of the writer's workshop lessons and key framework concepts. In November, the group followed up by reviewing student writing samples using teaching rubrics and checklists to inform future instruction.

"As a result of this initiative, all students will see themselves as writers," said Ms. DeSantis-Helming. "We hope that the building blocks we are providing will help students succeed as learners in Mineola and beyond."



Alumni Spotlight

KENNETH CHIN, CLASS OF 2002



At Mineola High School, Kenneth was a member of the wrestling team and treasurer of the National Honor Society. Several of the friendships he made back then have endured and are still his closest friends today.

After graduation from Mineola, Kenneth attended Boston College where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Management in 2006. While there, he was a teaching assistant in a chemistry class and tutored high school students for the SATs.

After graduating, Kenneth worked for a couple of years for Standard and Poor's Financial

Services on Wall Street before deciding that he was much more interested in medicine than business. He then applied to and attended medical school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I've always enjoyed hands-on work so orthopaedic surgery was a great fit for me," Kenneth said of the decision.

He graduated from medical school in 2012 and is now Chief Resident in the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. He specializes in surgery to fix broken bones, repair torn ligaments/tendons, replace

damaged joints and correct skeletal deformities.

Next year, Kenneth will continue his medical training with a one year fellowship in foot and ankle surgery, which is a subspecialty of orthopaedic surgery. After that, he plans to go into academic practice, to teach new residents and medical students about how to take care of patients with musculoskeletal problems.

Kenneth currently resides in Baltimore with his wife, Cindy and their five-year-old chocolate lab mix. In his spare time he enjoys mountain biking, traveling and downhill skiing.

"I've always enjoyed hands on work so orthopaedic surgery was a great fit for me."





BOYS SOCCER

After rolling through the conference, the boys soccer team started the playoffs with an exciting 2-1 victory over Lawrence High School. They followed that up in the second round with a convincing win over neighbor Garden City High School. The tide suddenly turned for them in the county semifinal game against South Side High School, as they lost their one-point lead with only 2:30 left in the game and were defeated 3-2.

The team advanced with more award winners than they have had in the past 10 years. Senior Dimas Cabrera led the county in goals and assists. The following list is a summary of the teams' accolades this fall.



All-Conference

Anthony Abbatiello, Andrew Ariza, Justin Bracken, Christian Melendez, Erick Marquez

All-County Honorable Mention

Flavio Anjo, Michael Rodrigues

All-County

Dimas Cabrera, Brandon Mendes, Luis Tinoco

Conference Player of the Year

Dimas Cabrera (voted by the 13 coaches in our conference)

Class Player of the Year

Dimas Cabrera (Most outstanding player of the 39 Class A schools)

All-State

Dimas Cabrera (voted by coaches in NC and throughout New York State)

All-Region

Dimas Cabrera (only four in all of Nassau County)

Conference AB III Champions

Mineola (last time was 2006)

NC Final Four

Mineola (last time was 2006)

Conference Coach of the Year

Paul Pereira

Junior Varsity Conference

Champions

Mineola (Rob Mendes)



The 2016 fall athletic season at Mineola High School provided tremendous excitement and enthusiasm in our community. Student-athletes competed to the best of their abilities as several teams marched deep into the Nassau County playoffs. Both the boys varsity soccer team and the girls volleyball team left several teams in their wake as they headed to the county semifinals and finals, respectively.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The girls volleyball team enjoyed a season that would have been undefeated if not for Seaford High School. After placing second in the conference, the girls defeated Island Trees High School in the semifinals to advance to the finals. The team was focused in the finals as they took on a Seaford team that had beaten them twice during the season. After getting off to a great start, winning the first two of three games, the team lost in five. The varsity team looks forward to next season as they return almost all of their players. The district also congratulates the JV team on completing an undefeated season.

We congratulate all team members for their hard work and efforts and look forward to the winter season. The following is a list of award recipients from our volleyball and other fall sports teams.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

All-County

Colette Maloney, Samantha Schroeder

All-Class

Serena Berger, Victoria Ondris

Senior Scholar-Athlete

Serena Berger

All-Tournament

Samantha Schroeder

CROSS-COUNTRY TRACK

All-County

Ryan DeMagistris, Matteo Itri, Gabe Silva

All-Conference

Peter Campanella, John Dublynn, Joseph Mueller, Hannah Kolsc, Kelly Koo, Joanne Kubat, Emily O'Connell

FOOTBALL

All-Conference

Robert Earley III, John Thilbourg

Academic All-Conference

John Thilbourg

Unsung Hero

Thomas Bohner

GIRLS SOCCER

All-County

Allison Mendes

All-Class

Nicole Genova

All-Conference

Jillian Palma

Senior Scholar-Athlete

Jillian Palma

GOLF

All-Conference

Chris Wiercinski



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