



# Outreach

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## Beyond THE FOUR WALLS

Over the past decade, Mineola High School has been working collaboratively with surrounding colleges, universities and hospitals to ensure its students are succeeding at the highest levels possible. The school currently provides outreach through programs with Adelphi University, Hofstra University, Molloy College and Winthrop Hospital, with the goal of exposing students to resources, methodology and first-hand experiences that are not available within the confines of the school building itself.

**"It's programs like these that keep our high school viable and unique."**  
**-Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler**

The group began as a result of concern over Latinas having the highest high school drop-out rate and Mineola having a large Latina population residing in its area. The group offers successful college mentors to Mineola students and provides resources such as financial literacy workshops and college workshops to assist in student advancement. Together, Mineola and Molloy College have steadily decreased the drop-out rate, and the high school now boasts a large percentage not only graduating, but going on to college.

In addition, each of these establishments offers students in the science research program the invaluable experience of working in real laboratories, conducting hands-on analysis, with the professionals. "Resources like these are essential to our research program," teacher Dr. Ellen McGlade-McCulloh shared. "These are the types of relationships we need to build our program and help our students succeed." As a result of relationships like these, the district has already produced an Intel Semifinalist last year.

"It's programs like these that keep our high school viable and unique," Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler stated. Each of these programs works off of a collaboration between both parties and has no impact on the district's budget.

Through Winthrop Hospital, located right in the heart of Mineola, interested students have been able to participate in the Explorers Program, which seeks to expose students to various aspects of hospital work. By meeting at the hospital once a month, a group of Mineola students explores the intricacies of a hospital setting, how it runs more like a 'city,' and the fact that it is comprised not only of doctors and nurses, but of a plethora of professionals with a wide array of expertise. The hospital also offers vocational training for students who are especially interested in one particular field.

At Adelphi University in Garden City, college and high school students are working hand-in-hand as part of a literacy collaboration. This partnership grew from the district's participation in Adelphi's teacher training program and began as a simple book club. It gives Mineola students a real taste of the college experience, as together, students have engaged in community service, produced a rendition of *Hamlet*, and taken African dance classes.

For the past eight years, the Latina Program through Molloy College has assisted young Latina women in Mineola to realize their full potential.



Featured In

# TIME FOR KIDS

The district was featured in the national children's publication *Time for Kids*. The district's technology program, specifically with regard to the use of iPads and Netbooks in the middle school classrooms, has garnered tremendous attention and earned Mineola a cover story in the February 3, 2012 edition of the paper. To view the complete article, please visit the Mineola Middle School webpage on the district's website at [www.mineola.k12.ny.us](http://www.mineola.k12.ny.us).

"Mineola's selection for this feature speaks to the attention our iPad and Netbook programs have received locally and nationally, as well as to the successes our students have been achieving because of these resources," Superintendent Michael Nagler said of the article. "There really is something special happening with this program here in Mineola, and it's great that our teachers and students were acknowledged for it."

**Mineola Union Free School District**  
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# CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE



Members of the Board of Education and administration started the New Year by breaking ground for the construction at Hampton Street School. The groundbreaking marked the start of the \$2.1 million capital improvement project, approved by voters with the 2011-12 school budget. The project, anticipated for completion by the start of school in September, will create an extension to house a library media center, music room and art room, which would result in increased instructional space for students, since these rooms are currently housed in regular classrooms.

# A MURAL FOR MUSTANGS

Three Mineola High School seniors recently attained the unprecedented achievement of being the first group of students to work together on a senior project, fulfill all requirements, and maintain their friendship in the process. Dylan Dombrowski, Deanna Constantino and Erin Etherson were determined to come up with a senior project that would stand out and be remembered for years to come. Inspired by the Booster Club's mural at Hampton Stadium, the trio decided to do a similar work on the handball court, located in the former tennis court area (now a parking lot).



During class time, the seniors created a PowerPoint presentation of their progress, developed the layout for the design, and researched how to make it all happen. Between priming the wall, tracing the images and painting, the project took a total of eight days over the course of the semester to complete after school hours. The final work contains a mustang and the words "Mustang Pride."

"We are all very involved in school and our community, so we thought this was a great way to give back," Deanna said of the group's idea. "It's something that will be remembered, and it really symbolizes the school spirit here in Mineola," Dylan added.

Erin, proud of their completed work, said, "I really enjoyed this project because we are getting a lot of positive feedback on it, and it will last for years. If we wrote a paper, no one would remember it."

The trio had much appreciation for the janitors, administrators and Booster Club members who assisted them in the coordination of their efforts. They completed the class with a 95 on their project.



# Environmental Club Sees Green

Mineola High School's Environmental Club was recently awarded a \$1,000 first-place grant from the National Grid Foundation in partnership with the Alliance for Climate Education. The club received the grant for a proposal they submitted to the Green Dependence Day Competition, in which they competed against 200 schools for the grand prize. One winner was chosen from each region, with Mineola taking top honors for the entire Northeast area.

"Their project was not only about recycling, but about teaching younger students about sustainability," President of National Grid Foundation Robert Keller said of Mineola's winning project during his presentation of their check. "We're very engaged in making people aware of how their decisions impact the planet and supporting community efforts that share this vision."

Under the guidance of advisor Susan Kennedy, a biology teacher at the high school, the Environmental Club drafted a proposal that expanded their current Cap Recycling Program to the elementary level. This is the fifth year the club has been implementing this successful program, which collects bottle caps through bins in the cafeteria and sends them to Aveda, who in turn uses the caps to make its shampoo bottles. The club plans to use the grant to purchase and decorate recycling bins for each of the elementary schools, as well as to purchase items made out of recycled material to use as prizes and giveaways during presentations of the program to the younger students.

This year alone, the club has collected more than 50,000 caps for the cause at the high school, in addition to hosting its battery recycling program and similar initiatives. The program should be fully implemented at the elementary level this spring.

# Collection Development Grant

Judy Shaughnessy, Jackson Avenue School librarian, recently won a \$1,000 Collection Development Grant from Mackin Education Resources for use to help fund the purchase of books and materials for the school's library. Ms. Shaughnessy was entered into a contest for the grant by visiting the company's booth at the recent American Association for School Librarians National Conference in Minneapolis. The award monies were used to purchase a total of 55 curriculum-related books that are aligned with the new Common Core Standards. Only three educators across the United States were selected for this grant.

"Mineola is very supportive of the library," Ms. Shaughnessy stated. "Many students use it as their primary source for books, and the children are generally very excited at the mention of any new arrivals." All classes at Jackson Avenue School visit the library at least once a week, with more visits made when conducting research or completing specific projects. In addition, all students have access to the library during first period each day, which serves as an opportunity to return and select new books for independent reading in the classroom or at home.



# A Focus on Our Future



*“The Snowy Day [by Ezra Jack Keats] because I like snow.”- Andrew Koshy, Meadow Drive, Grade 1*



*“Anthem by Ayn Rand. I thought it was really interesting with all the philosophies she explores. It was very to the point.” - Kyle Jenkins, High School, Grade 10*

*“Charlotte’s Web [by E.B. White] ... I like when Wilbur goes to the fair.” - Delaney Novick, Grade 2, Meadow Drive*



*“Lunch Lady and the Field Trip Fiasco [by Jarrett J. Krosoczka] because it has lots of action and surprises.” - Jonathan Salcedo, Jackson Avenue, Grade 4*



## Students Speak: What is your favorite book?

*“The Cell by Stephen King...I like the way he writes. He dragged me in right away.”- Doug Hale, High School, Grade 10*



*“Blue Hat, Green Hat [by Sandra Boynton] because it is silly and goes ‘oops’ a lot.”- Amanda Baker, Kornreich Program at Hampton*



*“Blubber by Judy Blume because I like the way she writes and it relates to what really happens in school.” - Hannah Abraham, Middle School, Grade 6*



*“Green Eggs and Ham [Dr. Seuss] because it is so funny.”- Alex Baker, Willis Avenue, Kindergarten*



*“The Twits by Roald Dahl ... It’s my favorite because its really funny.” - Sophia Suarez, Jackson Avenue, Grade 4*



*“The Fun Day Fairies series [by Daisy Meadows] because they can fly.” - Pooja Patel, Hampton, Grade 1*



*“Star Wars ABC’s because it is just my favorite.” - George Faccio, Willis Avenue, Pre-K*



*“Because of Winn Dixie [by Kate DiCamillo] because I love animals and it’s about a girl falling in love with a dog.” - Jenna Kivatisky, Middle School, Grade 6*





# Contributing Positively to A Global Society

## Students Help Students in Africa

Ninth graders from Dr. Maureen Connolly's English class at Mineola High School teamed up with third graders at Jackson Avenue School to participate in an innovative, student-led literature-based project that helped raise money and awareness. The ninth graders read the novel *Chanda's Secrets*, which focuses on the life of a young girl growing up in Africa. They also conducted research on life in Africa and listened to a lecture by Mark Grashow, the founder of the U.S. Africa Children's Fellowship, whose mission is to inform local students on the education issues in Africa and empower them to help. With their newfound knowledge, the ninth graders taught their younger peers about the importance of having access to education, especially in areas such as Zimbabwe, where resources are severely limited.

Each of the elementary students was asked to raise money, which would help improve school conditions in Zimbabwe and benefit the Fellowship, by doing chores around the house and collecting their savings in jars they designed themselves. "Everybody can help," Mr. Grashow explained to the students. "Whether you bring in a soccer ball, pencils or an old sports uniform, it will all go to good use in Africa."

Mineola High School has done these service learning projects for more than 15 years and has been working with Mr. Grashow, who is a retired educator from Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, for just as long. Monies raised by students went toward the building and renovation of schools in Africa, as well as the purchase and shipping of supplies to the more than 200 schools educating 70,000 children there. To date, the schools have raised more than \$2,000 thanks to donations from State Farm and Charity Champions (an MSG Varsity organization).



*Ninth graders help third graders decorate their fundraising jars and share their knowledge of Africa with them.*

## Macaroni Makes a Difference



In a cross-age service learning project, eighth and eleventh graders at Mineola High School have been working to help reduce hunger in our area and raise awareness of its presence on Long Island and in the United States. Mrs. Nancy Regan, AP US History teacher, was awarded a grant through the Sodexo Foundation and Youth Serve America for her project. As part of this venture, eleventh graders in AP American History researched an era and created display boards depicting the problems of hunger and poverty during the assigned time period. The upperclassmen then used their display boards as talking points for a lesson with eighth-grade classes.

Once educated, students at both grade levels designed and implemented service projects that could help fight hunger on Long Island. Among these projects were a districtwide food collection, loose change boxes to benefit the Mary Brennan INN (part of the Interfaith Nutrition Network of soup kitchens and food pantries). The most ambitious part was the "Mineola Macaroni: Making a Difference" pasta night. Following a tradition of highly successful fundraisers, the combined efforts of our students, staff and community have again yielded tremendous donations to local organizations. A final tally of the amount raised was not available as of the time of print of this newsletter, but will be posted on the district website. The district would like to thank all those who participated and donated.

## Superintendent's Homework

Just prior to the holiday break, the district launched a new addition to its website. Titled "Superintendent's Homework," the link offers a wide array of resources for students in grades 2-9 to practice their skills at home after school, on weekends or during extended breaks. A letter was sent home to parents urging them to access the site with their child and encouraging them to take advantage of the added resources.

"It is our hope that by providing an electronic method of learning, children will be more apt to perfect their skills, thereby enabling them to increase their academic achievement," Superintendent Dr. Michael P. Nagler said about the addition. Dr. Nagler also gave parents a success tracker worksheet to set goals and monitor their child's progress with the resources, as well as a chance to offer feedback on each of the links that were provided.

In an effort to meet every child's individual needs, the links are broken down by NWEA scores. Participation is completely voluntary. The "homework" can be accessed by going to the district's website, [www.mineola.k12.ny.us](http://www.mineola.k12.ny.us), clicking on the "District Info" tab and then selecting "Student Resources."

## Calling on *Kid Knowledge*

As a tool to assist in aligning its curriculum with the new Common Core Standards, the district will be implementing the Kid Knowledge science core curriculum for students in grades K-12. The basis of the program is to develop a child's knowledge of fundamental concepts such as measurement, distance, force and motion through engaging activities at a young age. While the program has an elementary focus, the core concepts are utilized at all levels and build in complexity with each grade level.

As developed by Knowing Science, Kid Knowledge stems from the premise that young kids can understand science and will utilize scientific methods as a tie-in to literacy (i.e. reading informational text) and other subject areas. The program was selected for its effectiveness, as well as its ability to enhance the curriculum for Common Core. "This program really makes text come alive for our students," Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Patricia Burns said of its potential. "I think it will prove a great asset to our teachers and students will really be successful at, and proud of, grasping these science concepts at a young age."

For more information on the program, visit [www.kidknowledge.com](http://www.kidknowledge.com).



# Creating Life-Long Learners

The district's goal of creating life-long learners includes not only the students who attend the schools, but its teachers and educators, as well. In order to achieve this goal, it is stated in the Mineola Teachers Association contract that all educators are required to complete a minimum of 25 hours of professional development each year. With the implementation of new technology at Mineola Middle School this year, teachers have received extensive training on the new tools and resources which are now available to them at the touch of a button.

"The purpose of professional development is to help teachers keep their repertoire current and to provide them with a myriad of opportunities and teaching tools," Middle School Principal Mark Barth stated. "We as a school system have put a strong focus on technology as an educational tool, so that has played a large role in our workshops this year."

This year alone, middle school teachers have participated in professional development in the following subjects/areas: EdLine, OneNote, digital presentation resources (such as MovieMaker), interactive white boards, alignment with the Common Core Standards, NWEA assessments, Discovery Ed streaming, E-Spark, and ShowMe, as well as implementing a literacy collaborative approach to teaching reading and writing in the fifth and sixth grades and developing the ability to collaborate with colleagues using GoogleDocs.

While these forms of professional development are provided by the district, it is important to note that many educators continue striving to become life-long learners on their own by obtaining advanced degrees, subscribing to professional journals, and attending or presenting at various workshops and conferences across the United States.

## Accomplished Writers

### One Sweet Essay

Catherine Winski, a third-grade student at Jackson Avenue School, was the winner of this year's Entenmann's Essay Contest, sponsored by the baking company. Third through sixth graders across the county were eligible to participate, and more than 2,000 entries were received. Catherine's essay was chosen based upon her description of their chocolate chip cookies in response to the question, "What is your favorite Entenmann's product and why?"

For her winning submission, Catherine received an iPod Touch with case, a stereo system and headphones. Her parents were given an Entenmann's baking book, and her siblings each received a case of their favorite products. "I enjoy writing and I really wanted an iPod," Catherine explained of her motivation to enter the contest. She was the only first-place winner in Nassau County.



### Pine Tree Poets

Ten fourth-grade students at Hampton Street Elementary School had poems published in the Pine Tree Poetry Collection 2011. The students wrote these poems while in the third grade under the guidance of teachers Mrs. Doherty and Mrs. Carretta. Congratulations to the following students who are now published poets:

Domingos DaSilva  
Victoria Godinho  
Francisca Gomes  
Alexandria LaMarsh  
Noah Gabriel Love  
Jessica McCarthy  
Sean McKenna  
Ariana Rodrigues  
Ethan Sargeant  
Rebecca Tobar

### Published Poets

Ana Victoria Serna, a third-grade student at Jackson Avenue School, can officially add "published poet" to her list of accomplishments. After entering her poem "An Ode to Summer" into a contest, she was notified in November of her semifinalist status and was recently sent a copy of the book *Famous Poets of the Heartland*, which included a copy of her published poem. Ana, who enjoys writing poetry, was urged by her second-grade teacher to enter the contest. "I'm still pretty excited about it...it feels nice to have something published," the poet said of the honor. Ana's favorite poet is Robert Frost.







## Staying Fit

As part of the approved 2011-12 school budget, the district invested in several new pieces of gym equipment to enhance the athletic facilities offered at Mineola High School. With the old aerobic equipment outdated and frequently in need of repair, Athletic Director Ralph Amitrano used the monies to purchase two new treadmills, two new elliptical machines, and three new exercise bikes. This state-of-the-art equipment complemented the recently updated weight training machines, which include a power rack for Olympic-style lifting.

The fitness center rivals any area gym, but without the membership and additional cost to students. It offers access to students in the regular physical education classes as an alternative to other units. In addition, it gives students the chance to keep a record of their achievements during class to monitor their improvement on self-assessment cards. The room is currently utilized every day after school by athletes, as well as by the general student population, and is monitored by a coach or physical education teacher at all times. A certified reconitioner services the room to ensure all equipment is up to standard and assures safety for all users.

"Throughout the years, we built the room into what has now become a great alternative to students spending their money on local gym memberships," Mr. Amitrano said of the facility. "Students find it a great place to stay fit and healthy while being able to socialize with friends after school or during class."



## Healthy Smiles



It was a day full of smiles for the first graders of Hampton Street Elementary School. Pediatric dentist Elizabeth Kitsos taught the students how to properly brush their teeth and discussed what the better choices are to eat and drink to keep their teeth clean and healthy.

Students put on large tooth costumes as Dr. Kitsos demonstrated how to properly brush their teeth with a super-sized toothbrush. Each February, the American Dental Association sponsors National Children's Dental Health Awareness Month to raise awareness about oral health. This is the third year that Dr. Kitsos has come to Hampton Street Elementary and volunteered her time to teach the students about the importance of oral health.



## Kindergartener Wins \$25,000

Kaiden Morovati, a kindergarten student at Willis Avenue School, participated in the school's annual PTO gift wrap fundraiser. With the help of his parents, all of Kaiden's orders were logged through the company's website, which entered him in a contest to win \$25,000. Just in time for the holiday season, Kaiden's family was notified that he had the winning click.

Representatives from Innisbrook Wraps, which supplies organizations with premium products for fundraising, presented the check to Kaiden and his family at a small ceremony held at the school on December 22. He is the only grand prize winner across the entire United States.

Kaiden is pictured here with (L-R) Willis Avenue Principal Dr. SueCaryl Fleischmann, Suffolk County Innisbrook representative Ro Pogoloff, Nassau County Innisbrook representative Lori Aponte, Innisbrook District Manager Bernadette Caslin, Kaiden's parents Sanaz and Babak, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Nagler, PTO President Cina Palumbo and PTO Treasurer Lisa Frey.

Congratulations to the Morovati family, who plans to save the money for Kaiden's college education.





# All-County Musicians

It is with great pride that the Department of Fine and Performing Arts announces that 40 students from fifth through twelfth grades were accepted to and performed in the All-County Music Festivals, held in the beginning of January. Rehearsals occurred at schools across the county and the concerts took place at the Tilles Center on the Old Brookville campus of Long Island University. The audiences, numbering over 2,000 for each concert, were amazed at the extremely high level of musicianship. "The Mineola students worked hard to prepare their music and were excellent representatives for the district and the community," said Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts Peter Freeman. "Having this many students participate is not just a tribute to their musicianship. It is also an indication of their commitment to excellence."

Congratulations to the following students on this great accomplishment:

## Mineola High School:

Brian Greenfield	Band
Owen Harte	Band
Rebecca Bastos	Chorus
Kayleigh Bugalla	Chorus
Alexandra Distasi	Chorus
Matthew Eisen	Chorus
Kathleen Guda	Chorus
Joel James	Chorus
Marissa Karasz	Chorus
Joseph Lao	Chorus
Emily Mahlmann	Chorus
Genevieve Peters	Chorus
Michelle Senra	Chorus
Rohit Singla	Chorus
Bonnie Small	Chorus
Daniel Willis	Chorus
Theodore Bischoff	Orchestra
Carolina Palumbo	Orchestra
Brandon Sia	Orchestra
Alex Toth*	Orchestra

\* Alex was selected as a bassoonist. The strongest band members are often chosen for the orchestra.

## Mineola Middle School:

Natalie Campanella	Band
Peter Campanella	Band
Kyle Kazimir	Band
Christopher Barnwell	Chorus
Nathaniel Bischoff	Chorus
Shaina Gross	Chorus
Josephine Jones	Chorus
Jake Lenz	Chorus
Jacqueline Letta	Chorus
Gabriella Palumbo	Chorus
Isabella Posada	Chorus
Joseph Tullo	Chorus
Ryan Hornberger	Orchestra
Hannah Hoyt	Orchestra
Jisoo Kim	Orchestra
Jilliane Magno	Orchestra
Manuel Mirao	Orchestra
Lauren O'Hara	Orchestra
Neliah Rustemi	Orchestra
Samantha Trested	Orchestra



Congratulations also to the Mineola music teachers for helping these students grow in their musicianship:

Mineola High School Band:	Mr. Carreras
Mineola High School Orchestras:	Ms. Campbell/Mrs. Frazer
Mineola High School Choirs:	Mrs. Messina
Mineola Middle School Bands:	Mr. Bennett/Mr. Ratner
Mineola Middle School Orchestras:	Mrs. Frazer/Mr. Bennett
Mineola Middle School Choirs:	Mr. Goldman

All-County is sponsored and run by the Nassau Music Educators Association (NMEA,) an all-volunteer organization made up of music teachers and supporters of music education.

# All-County Artists

Fifteen of Mineola's finest artists were selected and had their work displayed at the Eighth Annual All-County Art Exhibit held in March at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Harley Student Center. The show featured work from student artists from across the county. Over 1,000 pieces were exhibited, and the work from the Mineola students was among the best!

Congratulations to the Mineola All-County Artists:

Hampton Street Elementary School	Victoria Godinho
Hampton Street Elementary School	Natalie Nandalall
Jackson Avenue Elementary School	Alessandra Maldonado
Jackson Avenue Elementary School	Erica Yoon
Meadow Drive School	Eric VanGrembergen
Mineola Middle School	Nikole Holowat
Mineola Middle School	Maimuna Islam
Mineola Middle School	Victoria Pomposelli
Mineola Middle School	Leonardo Yeung
Mineola High School	HanByul Byun
Mineola High School	Maria DiCandia
Mineola High School	Natalie Leitman
Mineola High School	Jill Mullane
Mineola High School	Carolina Palumbo
Mineola High School	Brandon Volino

The All-County Art Exhibit is produced by the Art Supervisors Association (ASA) of Nassau County, a non-profit organization made up of supervisors and directors of art from the schools and districts of Nassau County. Student artists are recommended by their teachers for inclusion in the show, and from these, up to three students are selected from each teacher's list. "We are very proud of all of our artists and art teachers," said Mineola Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts Peter Freeman. "Their talent is incredible and their work is always magnificent!"

# Teacher by Day, Singer by Night

You may not be aware that Alaina Tutrone, third-grade special education teacher at Jackson Avenue School, is also a member of a "Sweet Adeline" singing group called The Greater Nassau Chorus. A teacher in the district for four years, she has been with this chorus for seven, and even has an undergraduate degree in music education with a concentration in voice. The group, which performs at several venues over the course of the year, competed in and placed at the Sweet Adeline's International Competition held in Houston, Texas this past October. Her group came in first at their regional competition in 2010, which qualified them for participation in the international event, where they placed 8th out of over 30 choruses from around the globe. Ms. Tutrone sings lead in the barbershop-style group, which rehearses every Tuesday night in Baldwin.

Congratulations to Ms. Tutrone on this extraordinary talent and her group's success.



# UPCOMING *Events*

**Tuesday, April 17**

Board of Education Business Meeting,  
Budget Adoption & BOCES Vote  
7:00 PM @ WI

**Wednesday, April 25**

Deadline for Petitions for  
Candidates to the Board of Education

**Tuesday, May 1**

Voter Registration Night @ HA, JA & ME  
4:00-8:00 PM

**Thursday, May 3**

Board of Education Workshop Meeting  
& Budget Hearing  
7:00 PM @ WI

**Tuesday, May 15**

**District Budget Vote and Trustee Election  
@ HA, JA & ME  
6:00 AM - 9:00 PM**

**Thursday, May 24**

Board of Education Business Meeting  
7:00 PM @ WI

**Monday, May 28**

Memorial Day - Schools Closed

**Thursday, June 7**

Board of Education Workshop Meeting  
7:00 PM @ WI

**Thursday, June 21**

Board of Education Business Meeting  
7:00 PM @ WI

**Friday, June 22**

Last Day of School

**Saturday, June 23**

High School Graduation @ CW Post

# SPORTS CORNER

The winter sports season at Mineola High School was a very successful one. With several teams qualifying for playoffs and multiple student-athletes qualifying and competing at the state competitions, the Mustangs excelled both on the courts and in the classroom. The boys track team won their conference championship and had an impressive list of All-County and All-Conference runners. They were also awarded the Conference Sportsmanship Award. Fred Lang qualified for States in the 1000-meter and finished well, as he ran a relay leg at the meet. The girls track team finished in third place in their conference. Jenna Pareti, Emma Perez and Nina Ribiero turned in strong finishes at the divisional meets and qualified for post-season awards.

The boys basketball team finished the league season with an impressive 10-2 record and entered the playoffs in a home contest against Wantagh High School. The team fell behind early in the game, as they trailed 18-3 after four minutes of the first quarter. From there, the team battled back to take a fourth-quarter lead in the game but fell short at the end losing by eight points.

The girls basketball team finished in third place in their conference and had the difficult assignment of taking on a strong Garden City team at Garden City High School in the first round of the playoffs. The game was close the whole way through, as the Lady Mustangs played strong defense and controlled the glass, but in the end couldn't muster enough offense to overtake the Trojans. Garden City advanced to the Nassau County finals where they lost to North Shore High School.

Neither the girls or boys bowling teams qualified for playoffs, but they did have several student-athletes who had impressive seasons and earned post-season recognition. Jaclyn Lusardi, PJ Kelly and John Lusardi achieved All-Conference status as they bowled consistently high averages throughout the season.

The wrestling team completed their season by

hosting the 2012 Nassau County Division II Championships. All of the Div. II teams wrestled at Mineola on February 11 to qualify for the final rounds on the 12th at Hofstra University. Wrestlers David Gorry, Mathew Long and Joseph Massaro not only qualified for the finals, but won their respective weight classes to become Division II County Champions. With that, the boys advanced to the NYS meet in Albany.

This past season four teams were honored as NYS Scholar-Athlete Teams. The boys basketball, girls basketball, girls track and boys track teams all had cumulative averages over 90. Their academic success, along with their success on the court and track, is testament to the commitment that they have made.

The following is a list of awards that Mineola student-athletes have earned this past winter season:

Jaclyn Lusardi	All-Conference	Girls Bowling
PJ Kelly	All-Conference	Boys Bowling
John Lusardi	All-Conference	Boys Bowling
Michael Waszchuk	All-County	Boys Basketball
Thomas Breslin	All-Conference	Boys Basketball
Malcolm Brown	All-Conference	Boys Basketball
Brian Gaffney	All-Conference	Boys Basketball
William Cashin	All-County	Wrestling
Bruno Ferreira	All-County	Wrestling
David Gorry	All-County	Wrestling
Mathew Long	All-County	Wrestling
Joseph Massaro	All-County	Wrestling
Peter McCormack	All-County	Wrestling
Luigi Miranda	All-County	Wrestling
Edien Hincapie	All-County	Wrestling
Eric Lopez	All-Conference	Wrestling
Brendan Pusey	All-Conference	Wrestling
Justin Sandler	All-Conference	Wrestling
Kerri Medlock	All-County	Girls Basketball
Julie Falotico	All-Class	Girls Basketball
Charlotte Renker	All-Class	Girls Basketball
Detrick Causcut	All-County	Track
Fred Lang	All-County	Track
Jake Tavernite	All-Conference	Track
Pedro Vela	All-Conference	Track
Brad Coleman	All-Conference	Track
Mellique Nicholas	All-Conference	Track
Kaitlyn Latella	All-Conference	Track
Jenna Pareti	All-Conference	Track
Emma Perez	All-Conference	Track
Nina Ribiero	All-Conference	Track

## OPENING DAY ON THE NEW FIELD

The girls varsity softball team celebrated their inaugural softball game on the newly constructed girls softball field with a 9-1 victory over the West Hempstead Rams. The day began with opening ceremonies conducted by Athletic Director Ralph Amitrano. Families and friends of the players, school administrators, teachers and even the contractors who built the facility joined in to christen the new diamond. After the ceremony was over, it was time for the real action to take place on the field. eighth grader Emily Skupp took the mound and dominated the Rams as she allowed one run and fanned ten West Hempstead batters as the Mustangs rolled. Freshman Samantha Venus led the offensive attack as she went two for three with two runs batted in and took the honor of hitting the first home run at the new field. Valerie Fischer also added two hits and a run batted in for the Lady Mustangs.



Publication Coordinator: Danielle Lambert

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Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*