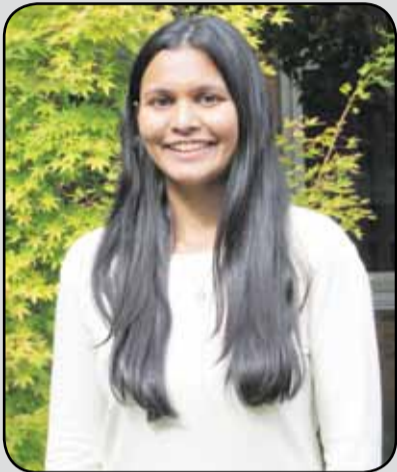




utreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US



Two

Intel Semifinalists

Mineola High School seniors Monika Dharia and Charlotte Ringhave been named semifinalists in the 2015 Intel Science Talent Search. This is the second time in the last five years that Mineola has had a semifinalist, and the first time the district has ever had two in the same year. Monika is valedictorian of the graduating class, and Charlotte is ranked fifth.

Monika's project, chosen in the category of Environmental Science, is titled "Evaluating the estrogenicity, androgenicity, and toxicity of urban-use pesticides using *saccharomyces cerevisiae* bioluminescent reporter system." Charlotte's project, in the category of Earth and Planetary Science, is titled "Assessing soil erosion through run-off and water-drop tests under acid rain attack."

They are two of 43 Long Island high school seniors who will compete with 300 semifinalists nationwide for a chance at three first-place awards of \$150,000 each. Monika and Charlotte's projects were chosen out of 1,844 total entries – the highest number in the contest in more than 15 years.

As semifinalists, the scholars will each receive \$1,000 from the Intel Foundation, with an additional \$1,000 given to the high school to further its program. The Intel Science Talent Search is one of the oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competitions for students.

MAGNA AWARD for Stopping the Summer Slide

Mineola Union Free School District received an honorable mention in the American School Board Journal's Magna Awards for 2015. Selected by a panel of judges, the award showcases programs and projects that are examples of innovation and excellence in school governance. Mineola was chosen for its Stopping the Summer Slide program.

Stopping the Summer Slide is a summer iPad extension program that is instrumental in advancing student learning during the months students are off from school and emphasizing the need to provide equitable programs for all students while respecting and enhancing the unique gifts of every child. Through the use of the district's one-to-one iPad initiative, teachers were able to leverage various applications to create a low-cost, high-interest, interactive "virtual summer school" for all students.

A survey of students found that 83 percent of participants felt the iPad experience better prepared them for the start of the school year, and comparisons of their NWEA scores from spring to fall support the purpose of the program.

"Extending the school day and school year is critical in closing the achievement gap," Patricia Burns, assistant

superintendent for curriculum, instruction and assessment, said in her award application. "The program is a great example of using technology to help solve longstanding issues in public education and can be an exemplar across the country."

Submissions for the award were judged on the program's capability of being replicated by other school boards, its successfulness in view of the program's primary objectives, its support by the Board, and its importance in promoting the district's mission and advancing student learning.

Mineola was recognized at the School Leaders Luncheon during the NSBA Annual Conference in Nashville on March 21. The district will also be cited, along with the other winning programs, in a special section of the April issue of American School Board Journal.

The Stopping the Summer Slide initiative is expected to expand this summer.

Mineola Union Free School District
121 Jackson Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MINEOLA U.F.S.D.





Innovative Educator Expert

Academically Gifted Program Educator for Jackson Avenue and Mineola Middle School Vincent Interrante, a master trainer for Microsoft, has been recognized by Microsoft as a global leader in using technology to increase productivity and transform education for students. He was selected as a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert for 2015 for his excellence in using technology to help students learn and achieve more, and ultimately succeed in a mobile-first, cloud-first world.

"Being selected as an MIE Expert is an amazing honor," said Mr. Interrante. "I look forward to continuing to find innovative ways to equip students with the proper tools needed to succeed in the new world of work."

Each year, Microsoft selects MIE Experts to be part of an exclusive global community that is paving the way for their peers to share ideas, try new approaches and learn from each other. This year, Microsoft selected more than 800 thought leaders in innovative learning who possess the technology skills and desire to amplify their reach and voice.

In the spring of 2011, Mr. Interrante piloted an Acer Netbook program for the district and participated in the United States Innovative Educator Forum, where he collaborated with other educators from around the nation. At the time, he was one of only approximately 250 Innovative Educators in the United States. That year, he was also one of 50 teachers from 31 countries worldwide, and one of only two from the U.S., to participate in the Global Innovative Educator Forum.

"Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts are inspiring examples of how individuals are using technology to increase students' productivity and develop the skills needed in the workplace," said Anthony Salcito, vice president of Worldwide Education, Microsoft Corp. "With an innovative use of mobile and cloud technology, these educators are transforming learning environments and delivering more personalized education to students, allowing them to do more and achieve more."

MIE Experts work closely with Microsoft to lead innovation in education, build educator capacity for using technology to improve student learning, and advocate and share their experiences in how technology improves teaching and learning. In addition, they mentor other educators and help train them in education technologies and Microsoft products and tools.

The district congratulates Mr. Interrante on this incredible designation.

MINEOLA MOTORS: Learning Unleashed

Mineola High School hosted the FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League competition on Jan. 31. Although the middle school has had a robotics team for the past three years, this is the first year the local competition, run entirely by FLL staff, was held in Mineola.

The mission of FIRST is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting, mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills; inspire innovation; and foster well-rounded life capabilities, including self-confidence, communication and leadership. With a mission very similar to the districts, it was important to district administrators and the Board of Education to host this event geared to middle school-aged students worldwide.

Mineola Middle School had two teams of 10 students participate in the competition – the Mega Mustangs and the Mineola Motors. Coached by teachers Ken Coy and Kerry Murphy, they competed against approximately 50 other teams in



areas such as teamwork, research of the theme, technical components of the robot and mission completion. The theme of this year's competition was "Learning Unleashed."

"Teamwork is often not thought of enough when one hears robotics, but there would be no robot if there wasn't a team," Coy said. "In the real world, accomplishments are made by people cooperating with each other. [Robotics] builds people skills as well as technical skills."

In the competition, each robot is given three attempts to complete approximately 12 missions and score as many points as possible. Each attempt is less than three minutes long. As a result of this year's FLL competition, Mineola won an award for the Alliance Round, where they teamed up with another group at random and scored the highest point value.

"I cannot emphasize enough how important this type of challenge is," Coy added. "It draws from computer programming, coding, problem-solving, teamwork...it incorporates all the skills that are applicable inside and outside of school, as well as throughout life."

The Lego League builds students' engineering skills in hopes of having them continue their participation in robotics competitions at the high school level. The middle school league is open to all fifth-through seventh-grade students, and the high school is planning to begin a robotics team this fall.



Auditorium Unveiled

The Mineola Middle School auditorium renovations were completed in February. The work included new seats, flooring, sound system, aisle lighting and the installation of LED bulbs. At a cost of approximately \$250,000, the work was included as part of the 2014-15 operating budget under the facilities upgrade account. The district is grateful for a donation by teacher Matt DeLuca's father, which covered the cost of the new sound system.

With seats original to the 1927 building, these upgrades were much-needed for the safety and comfort of our students and community.



How are you a life-long learner?



"I'll stop learning when I run out of questions."

Arthur Barnett,
Board President

"I take advantage of any opportunity to learn something new every day, especially through my Professional Learning Network on Twitter."

Janet Gonzalez,
Ed.D., Jackson Avenue Principal



"I always enjoy learning. I am learning Spanish so that I can communicate with Spanish-speaking families. I am always curious and often look up information on the spot whenever a question occurs to me. I also learn about best instructional practices and apply this to my work at Hampton."

Devra Small, Hampton Street Principal



"I have a life-long curiosity for all subjects and a love to read. As Abraham Lincoln said, 'Everything I learned, I learned from a book.'"

Eileen Bellusci,
Meadow Drive School Media Specialist



"Life-long learning challenges the status quo; it recognizes that change is inevitable. We must always seek to find solutions to problems using new thinking and creativity."

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



"I seek out news sources from many different perspectives in order to understand differing views. I enjoy reading, film, theater, sports, museums and other cultural activities though, it always seems that I am behind and have not seen or done enough. I enjoy having conversations with people about different things, and I want to be knowledgeable about all topics."

Ed Escobar,
High School Principal



"I have the opportunity to go into classrooms every day to learn from our teachers and, most importantly, our students. Each day students amaze me with what they know and the creative ways in which they demonstrate it."

Matthew Gaven,
Middle School Principal



Mission:

The mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is to pursue excellence, exhibit strength of character,



Positive Messages

Artists in the Making

Kindergarten through second-grade students were given the chance to participate in the Imagine That! Anti-Bully Art Contest. Many took advantage of the opportunity to showcase their talents, which had to incorporate a slogan and illustrate teamwork. Three Hampton Street students placed in the competition: first-grader Michaela Quinn and second-graders Allison Gayson and Sanaá Taylor. First-place winners in the competition had their work published as Imagine That! greeting cards, and others received tickets to Pollock Family Drip Painting and Jackson Pollock mouse pads.

Second-grade students at Meadow Drive School completed a mural to contribute to the school's library. The mural, a jungle collage, was inspired by famous artist Henry Rousseau and was created according to theme of "wonder." The mural will be the second of four to be included in the school's library. Last year's second-graders created a mural to the theme of "explore," and future second-graders will contribute murals based on the themes of "research" and "discover."



The entire second-grade class is pictured with art teacher Jaclyn Manouvrier and their completed mural, which will be converted for mounting in the library.

Contributing

"Global education is essential to students' success in an increasingly interconnected and pluralistic society and world they will soon inherit... Global education helps students contribute to a global society." – Journal of Global Education

In Mineola, we ascribe to this theory on the value of global education. Teachers and even entire schools contributing to a global society.

Protecting Our Planet

'Trashion' Recycling

Sixth-grader Jillian Parrino received an honorable mention in the 2015 North Hempstead Trashion Show in January. Jillian created a dress from recycled items and wore it while walking down a runway. Her dress, titled "Calling the 1990s," Jillian created a dress out of the yellow telephone cords as fashion accessories, and transformed old clothing into a new look.

"I like fashion and saw the contest online, so I decided to participate. I never walked a runway before. I thought it was a challenge."

Key to Writing

Mineola High School junior Sanskriti Bimal is a winner of the 2015 Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Award. She won two Silver Key distinctions in the Northeast Region in the journalism categories for her articles "Amplifying Voices to Educate the Girl Child" and "What Thanksgiving Means in Mineola."

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the longest-running, most prestigious competition and largest source of scholarships for creative teenagers in the United States. The program, now presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, has an amazing track record of spotting talent early.

Sanskriti is editor of the school newspaper and frequently writes articles for local Long Island media. She is actively associated with the Long Island Volunteer Center and is an ambassador and is passionate about educating underprivileged children.

"I am honored and humbled at the recognition," Sanskriti said. "I am motivated and inspired me to write and pursue my dreams."



School District is to inspire each student to be a life-long learner, character and *contribute positively to a global society.*

Contribute Positively to a Global Society

development of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for future employment and for building successful relationships in an society...Children in this country must be provided an education that more than adequately prepares them for citizenship in the globalization is a reality. Consequently, we as educators have an important responsibility to prepare students to function in and Curriculum and Instruction, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Elizabeth O. Crawford and Misty M. Kirby)

the importance of students being globally aware and contributing positively in any way they can. Here, we highlight some students, g in meaningful ways.

Denim Show: Sewing Queen

tion in the 2015 Town created an entire outfit way. Set to the theme Yellow Pages, used old denim into a handbag. to do it," she said. "I liked s fun."



Teacher of the Month



Missy Uryevick, a second-grade teacher at Meadow Drive School, was selected as the KJOY Teacher of the Month for January. Nominated by a parent and voted for online by the community, she was honored by KJOY in her classroom on Feb. 12. For the title, each of the students in her class received a coupon to Noodles & Company in Garden City, and Ms. Uryevick received a coupon for a year's worth of noodles.



Writing



l newspapers. She as their youth d young females. i said. "I am blessed y members who have



History Brought to Life

On Feb. 27, Mineola Middle School held a special ceremony to honor Caryl Salesi's father, Oracio "Ray" Vaz, a decorated WWII veteran. PFC Vaz, who served in the 90th Army division after volunteering at the age of 17, was in the D-Day invasion and the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp and earned two Purple Hearts and the Oak Leaf Cluster. Vaz visits Mineola students every year to discuss his experiences at war.

Sixth-graders have been working on a living history project, and as part of their work on the school newspaper, students Meghan Heckleman, Jennifer Moglia and Ana Victoria Serna decided to create a 20-minute video to capture Vaz's

story. The three students presented their video at the ceremony, where staff and students, along with Vaz's entire family, were in attendance.

"[PFC Vaz] is the embodiment of the character traits we hope to instill in our children at school," Principal Matthew Gaven said at the ceremony. "Through this video presentation, you saw examples of grit, courage, commitment to a cause larger than yourself, sacrifice and compassion."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Vaz was presented with a certificate

of appreciation for making history come alive and for the focus and determination shown during his time in the service. A longtime Mineola resident, he was previously given an honorary diploma by administration.





Smart *Music*

To further implement the usage of technology and iPads into music instruction districtwide, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts Joseph Owens has created a music and technology partnership through use of the SmartMusic program.

It has been cited in many studies that the benefits of students participating in a music program include increased problem-solving capabilities, better fine motor skills, improved bilateral connections, increased communication skills and a greater sense of teamwork. Approximately 1,000 district students in grades 3-12 play an instrument, and it is estimated that only 3-5 percent of them take lessons outside of school. Guided practice is crucial to the success of students who play an instrument, as it builds confidence and provides students with greater motivation to excel when they are given immediate

and constructive criticism of their work. SmartMusic has provided this service for students, both in the classroom and at home.

SmartMusic allows students to play their routine with background accompaniment and provides instant feedback on their precision. The program has a game-like feel and includes many method books, as well as concert pieces that can be accessed directly from the district-issued iPads. Teachers can assign specific sections to the group, and student scores are reported back via the application itself.

This year, the program piloted with the fifth-grade orchestra, sixth-grade band and eighth-grade band. Mr. Owens hopes the program expands to the entire fifth- through seventh-grade bands and orchestras next year. As of now, SmartMusic does not lend itself well to use for vocal performance.



BEST BAND ON MAIN STREET

Over the February break, the award-winning Mineola Mustang Marching Band took their biennial trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. There they dazzled audiences with the performance of their 2014 production "Neverland," in which they performed two parades – one at Magic Kingdom and the other at Epcot. After the Magic Kingdom performance, the band received a trophy for Best Band on Main Street USA.

"It is truly an honor to receive such a prestigious award," said band director Frank Mauriello. "Every student in this ensemble works extremely hard, and all their hours of dedication, responsibility and passion for the activity were justly rewarded."

For more information about the Mineola Mustang Marching Band, including a list of their upcoming performances, please visit mineolamarchingband.com.

E-Spark *Hosts Micro Event*

As a result of the district's longstanding relationship with the e-Spark application and Mineola's advanced use of technology in the schools, representatives from e-Spark hosted a micro event at Jackson Avenue School in March. Approximately 50 educators from across the state came to hear a demonstration from e-Spark, as well as firsthand feedback from Principal Dr. Janet Gonzalez, Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler and, most importantly, the students. Following brief presentations, educators were able to tour classrooms in the school and witness e-Spark in action, as well as ask questions of students and teachers about the product.



Alumni Spotlight

ANTONIA BORTONE, CLASS OF 2004

Serving as class president during her junior and senior years and being named homecoming queen for her school spirit, Class of 2004 graduate Antonia Bortone was very involved during her time at Mineola High School. She was active with the student organization, marching band, musical productions, student service center activities and mock trial.

“I threw myself into everything,” Bortone said. “I think the reason I became so involved is because it was something fun for me and I enjoyed it. My mom was a single mom and I was an only child, so I felt a strong sense of community here, as if I belonged. I made some lasting memories and, most importantly, some life-long friends.”

Between mock trial and a few criminal law classes she took at the school, Bortone fostered a strong desire to become a lawyer. “It was actually a criminal law class taught by Mrs. Honerkamp that got me hooked on law,” she said. “That class gave me more perspective on why I wanted to be a lawyer and the importance of advocating.”

During her time at the high school, she took on many leadership roles, which she believes developed her sense of character and helped define who she is and all that she does now. “I just loved leadership roles and was all about seeing change happen and being part of it,” she shared. “I feel like I really grew into myself during my time in high school – the teachers, such as Mr. Watson, Mr. Sauter, Mrs. Honerkamp and Dr. Nagler, who was principal at the time, were people I looked up to.”

After graduation, Bortone attended Quinnipiac University and dual majored in psychology and criminal justice. After earning her bachelor’s degree, she went directly to Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, where she interned for the Innocence Project and was selected for a mock trial national team. She earned her Juris Doctor in

2011 and then moved back into her family home in Mineola.

In addition to garnering new friends and new experiences while away at college and law school, Bortone remained in close contact with many of her Mineola friends. In fact, she frequently attended marching band home shows or homecoming games over the years, and even drove with friends to Syracuse once to watch the marching band perform.

After returning home from law school, Bortone began volunteering with a personal injury law firm in 2011. She passed the bar exam, was admitted to practice law in February 2012, and by January 2013 started practicing at an insurance defense law firm in Garden City. Bortone has since advanced to Kelly, Rode & Kelly, LLP in Mineola, where she continues to practice insurance defense law.

In March 2014, Bortone began planning her class’s 10-year high school reunion. She brainstormed ideas with fellow graduates and created a Facebook group for people to remain informed and active in the process. The reunion was held on Nov. 28, 2014, with approximately 50 of the original 160 graduates attending. Her love of planning and bringing the community together was a source of great pride for her throughout the process. “I loved seeing people who I knew in high school, but who I just may not have crossed paths with in a while,” she said. “I think it was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up with each other. It was a great night.”

Bortone is an avid kickboxer and enjoys spending time in New York City with her friends and boyfriend. She also enjoys spending time with family and friends right here in Mineola, going to some of her longtime favorite establishments such as Mama Theresa’s and Sheridan Lanes. In addition, she loves to travel and has planned two trips for this year already, one to Playa del Carmen and another to



“I feel like I really grew into myself during my time in high school – the teachers, such as Mr. Watson, Mr. Sauter, Mrs. Honerkamp and Dr. Nagler, who was principal at the time, were people I looked up to.”

New Orleans.

Looking to the future, Bortone said, “One of my biggest passions is the Innocence Project; my dream job is to become a staff attorney there.” She would also love to eventually get married and have a family to raise on Long Island, preferably right here in Mineola.



Senior wrestler James Rodriguez was the 170-pound Division II County Champion at the Nassau County Wrestling Championships held at Cold Spring Harbor High School. James participated in the New York State Championship Tournament in Albany at the Pepsi Center, where he won his first match against Arden Bell of Section X, Gouverneur HS. In his second match, he wrestled fourth-seeded Howie Nolan from Maple Grove HS in Section VI. Although James lost 8-4, he wrestled well enough to win. His last match of the states was against Joe Hennessey from Section III. James lost 5-0 to finish his attempt at becoming an All-State qualifier. His dedication and hard work throughout the season, however, has paid great dividends. In addition to being a standout wrestler, James holds an 87 average in school. At this time, he is undecided on which college he will attend next fall.

Tony Macchietto qualified for the New York State Bowling Tournament by finishing second overall in the county at the Nassau County Bowling Individual meet. He had an impressive day at the State Tournament, as he finished with a 197 average and bowled the second-highest score of the day with a 237 game as part of a 644 series in the opening morning of the tournament. As a 10th grader, Tony looks forward to establishing a great career as a Mineola Mustang bowler. He is also an excellent student and a member of the Mineola baseball team.

Mineola senior Andrew Pereira signed a National Letter of Intent to attend and play soccer



at New York Institute of Technology. With this commitment, Andrew, pictured below, left with coach Paul Pereira, HS Principal Ed Escobar and Athletic Director Ralph Amitrano, has taken another step toward realizing his dream of playing soccer at the college level. In addition to being an outstanding goalie, he is also a member of the varsity spring and winter track teams and serves the athletic program as one of the most entertaining Mustang mascots the school has ever had. As a student, Andrew ranks in the top percentage of the graduating class, and as an individual, he is a highly motivated, well-rounded and integral part of many aspects of the Mineola school community. The district congratulates Andrew and wishes him continued success.



Pinning for States

Mineola High School sophomore Tony Macchietto finished second in the Nassau County Qualifying Tournament for bowling and earned himself a spot on the All-State team. He is only the second male bowler from Mineola in the last 15 years and one of only 17 students who are going to states this year.

Coming from a family of bowlers, Tony has been bowling since he was about 6 years old. He has been a member of the varsity boys bowling team since the eighth grade and averages 202 per game.

"I like everything about it; it's fun," he said of the sport. "You get to hang out with friends, and then there is also a competition component."

Last year, Tony won a plaque for bowling a perfect game during a county tournament. He is also a member of the school's baseball and soccer teams.

Jump Rope for Heart

At the elementary level, students have been using their hearts for something healthy. In an effort to raise funds for the American Heart Association, students participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program during their gym periods. Typically raising thousands of dollars for the cause each year, kindergartners through second-graders at both Hampton Street and Meadow Drive schools have been recognized for their contributions and commitment to the cause.



Outreach

WWW.MINEOLA.K12.NY.US

Publication Coordinator: Danielle Lambert

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Arthur Barnett, *President*

Christine Napolitano, *Vice President*

Nicole Matzer, Patricia Navarra, Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion, *Trustees*

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