



Outreach

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NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST & COMMENDED STUDENTS

Mineola High School senior Sujith Maracheril has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2013. As a semifinalist, Sujith represents the top one-third, or about 16,000, of approximately 50,000 high scorers who took the PSAT/NMSQT. Students are ranked with a selection index score based on their combined scores in critical reading, writing and math. Semifinalists can compete to be named finalists and continue on in the process to receive corporate and college-sponsored scholarships, as well as the esteemed National Merit Scholarship. Sujith will be notified in February of his standing.

In addition, Lina Kim and Julia Fabiano have been named Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2013 competition for National Merit scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

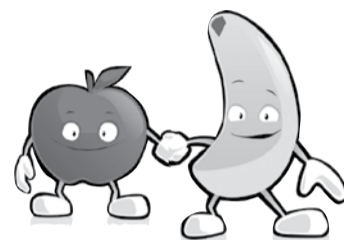
The Mineola Union Free School District congratulates these students on their impressive achievements.



Commended Students (L-R) Lina Kim and Julia Fabiano

National Merit Semifinalist Sujith Maracheril.

Award-Winning Nutrition Program



All five elementary schools within the Mineola Union Free School District were recently awarded a bronze medal from the Healthier U.S. School Challenge. To qualify for the bronze award, the district had to meet all of the HUSSC nutritional requirements and prove student compliance with the health and physical education criteria. Including Mineola, only 13 schools in New York State have received medal status.

The criteria includes:

- Serving a variety of healthier foods that appeal to students.
- Planning meals that feature fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat or fat-free milk products.
- Utilizing lean proteins and foods low in saturated fats, cholesterol, sodium and added sugars.
- Providing opportunities for physical activities and health education to students.

Established by the USDA, the Healthier U.S. School Challenge recognizes schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that create healthier school environments by providing nutrition education, nutritious food and beverage choices, physical education and opportunities for physical activity. This initiative is a component of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign, which strives to end the childhood obesity epidemic.

The district was presented with a plaque and banners for each building at a special ceremony on Oct. 17 at Jackson Avenue School. The ceremony was held in conjunction with National School Lunch Week as part of a larger healthy eating assembly by guest, "Broccoli Rob." Representatives from HUSSC presented the plaques and banners to building principals and members of administration.



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

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A MESSAGE FROM *Your Superintendent*

Dear Residents,

If I haven't already seen you at a Board meeting, Homecoming or one of the many special events we have already had in our buildings, welcome to the 2012-13 school year!

The 2011-12 school year never really ended for some of the Mineola staff and administration, as the summer months marked a very busy time in our district. Not only did we complete renovations at almost all of our school buildings, but staff had to work tirelessly to get the new rooms stocked and ready for opening day in late August.

You can see the outcome of these labors below, and as always, you can visit our schools and see the

completed work for yourself.

The summer months also marked time spent on further developing APPR, conducting DASA training and continuing our alignment with the new Common Core Standards. The excitement continued in September when ALL of the students at our middle school were given an iPad to take home until June, was felt again when we formally unveiled the completed Hampton library, and resurfaced once more as we won our homecoming game against Locust Valley.

Most recently, I had the privilege of participating in an intimate roundtable discussion with the Commissioner of Education and local politicians. I was one of only

five superintendents invited to this discussion, which centered around APPR standards and why Long Island is held to the same standards as the rest of the state when we are so far ahead of the curve. While no quick fix solution is possible for this, it was a great opportunity for Mineola to have a presence at such a forum.

Join me in celebrating these milestones with our district by reading through the pages of this Outreach and visiting the district website to remain informed of all current events in our schools.

Sincerely,

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

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Many of the district's anticipated capital improvement and expansion projects were completed prior to the start of school in late August. Pride in our facilities and maintenance of the taxpayers investments in our schools is, and always has been, a focus for Mineola. These most recent upgrades included work to facilitate the final stage of our reconfiguration. Share in our pride with the photos of the completed work below:

Mineola High School



New Art Rooms

Jackson Avenue School



Science Lab

Meadow Drive School



New Classrooms

Hampton Street School



New Library



Library, Music and Art Wing



New Library (Alt. View)

A Focus on Our Future



“Learning math. And reading.”- *Katelin Kelly, Meadow Grade 2*



“Writers Workshop because I like to write stories.”
- *Sydney Klass, Hampton Grade 2*

“Playing on the playground.”
- *Kate Loehner, Meadow Grade 1*



“The playground.”
- *Makayla Apter-Quinn, Hampton Kindergarten*



“To strengthen relationships with teachers and friends and the opportunity to mature and get ready for college life.”
- *Rojit Singla, Grade 12*

Students Speak: What Are You Most Looking Forward To This School Year?

“To learn more and taking the baritone horn.”
Nicholas Nandalall, Grade 3



“I joined the marching band and different sports this year so I’m hoping to make new friends and finally decide what I want to pursue in college.”
- *Amy Wetzel, Grade 10*



“Making new friends and having more fun in class.”
- *Justin Rodriguez, Grade 4*



“Events like the Junior Prom Fashion Show, the Syracuse Championships with the marching band and Kids Night.”
- *Meghan McCabe, Grade 11*

“The chance to try all of the new apps available for the iPad.”
- *Michael Britt, Grade 6*



“The end of the school year.”
- *James Graf, Grade 7*



“Learning new things and making new friends.”
- *Anushka Patel, Grade 5*



AP Scholar Success

Approximately 70 students at Mineola High School have earned AP Scholar Awards for their exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement Program exams. Students took AP exams in May 2012 after completing challenging college-level courses in the district. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on these exams.

The College Board's AP Program provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.8 million students worldwide who took AP exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. Congratulations to the following students:

AP SCHOLAR (granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams): Monica Alves, Joseph An, Emily Barron, Thomas R. Behan, Alyssa Bestler, Katherine R. Cappeller, Delores V. Chichi, David H. Chung, Danielle V. Cohen, Alexis G. Gonzalez, David Gorry, Nicholas Harran, Christiana P. Joyce, Jacqueline F. Kelly, Lina Kim, Tara L. Kubat, Justin G. Lemli, Cinthia P. Martins, Caique Mello, Kevin W. Mulder, Patrick J. Murray, Neha Narvekar, Vishal Ochani, Anthony Riccardi, Harkirat Singh, Rohit Singla, Eric Timlin, Vineeth Varghese and Ludi Zhao-Orena.

AP SCHOLAR WITH HONOR (granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams): SangMin Bak, Jose A. Barajas, Anastasia Canell, Brad Coleman, Julia Fabiano, Julianne M. Falotico, Dow Kim, Taylor R. Lenze, Nicole M. Lockwood, Rachel Luz, Emily L. Mahlmann, Danielle Martinez-McCormack, Angela M. McColgan, Samantha A. Mendoza, Nicole F. Scala, Jonathan Valentin and Annette I. Voll.

AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION (granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams): Siobhan Adams, Catherine B. Braun, Zachary R. Englis, Kaitlyn Farrell, Stephanie L. Flaum, Jeremy Friedman, Allison L. Furuya, Christopher M. Gavin, Stephin A. Jose, Chae Brianna Lee, Min Y. Lee, Ma Deza J. Lerasan, Jenna M. Maher, Jessica Makowski, Sujith R. Maracheril, Matthew Moro, Steven Naplolitano, Mathias N. Penaherrera, Emma F. Perez, Daniel Pinto, Nicholas D. Rutigliano, Razvan Tohanean and Sharon Yeung.

NATIONAL AP SCHOLAR (granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more of these exams): Siobhan Adams.

Dignity for All Students Act: An Explanation

As you may be aware, a law was signed in September 2010 requiring school districts across New York state to adopt a Dignity for All Students (DASA) policy for the 2012-13 school year. The policy aims to create a school environment free from discrimination and harassment and provides additional definitions and guidelines from prior codes of conduct (old policy #0115). The Mineola Board of Education adopted the new policy in the spring, and urges all parents to read the new code in its entirety.

In comparison to the former code of conduct, the new Dignity for All Students policy:

- Establishes Dignity Act coordinators – two per building, typically the principal plus the social worker
- Provides additional definition of terms not outlined before
- Utilizes “good faith” reporting
- Gives specific guidelines for complaint investigations
- Outlines remedial measures
- Calls for additional staff development
- Increases anti-bullying programs to raise awareness of harassment/bullying policies

To begin the process of educating parents, staff and students on the new policy, the district has created a plan to set the tone for good character early in the year. Each school has distributed age-appropriate, plain language codes of conduct to all students, and additional staff development has already been held as part of the Superintendent's Conference Days in August. It is important to note that this staff development extends not only to those inside the school building, but to bus aides and hallway monitors as well.

The district will be providing an annual report on the progress of its students under DASA, and the content of the policy will be revisited for adjustments each year. The code of conduct can be found on the district website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us. The Dignity for All Students Act is labeled as Board of Education Policy #5330.

Expanding Language Exploration

Last year, the district launched a foreign language program at the first-grade level. This year, that program is expanding to include Spanish for grades K-2, along with a Rosetta Stone pilot program at the third-grade level. As part of the pilot program, third-graders who volunteer to participate will be given an iPad, on which they will be required to complete lessons using the Rosetta Stone software twice a week. They will also meet once a week with a foreign language teacher. Students have only begun working with the software in recent weeks.

At the high school, one section of Portuguese is now being offered. “Mineola is a very unique community with residents from cultures across the globe,” Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler said of the new class. “We had a teacher willing to teach it and students interested in taking it; it was the next logical step to meet the needs of our students.”

In addition, this year's foreign language exchange program will be taking place with Austria.

The New Faces of Mineola

Catherine Maiman



Serving as the district's new director of pupil personnel services, Catherine Maiman brings nearly 20 years of education experience to the district. She joins us from the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District, where she served as the assistant director of pupil personnel services for pre-K-elementary. In this role, she supervised and provided support for the district's staff of psychologists and special education teachers, as well as served on district committees and provided staff development. Ms. Maiman earned her Bachelor of Arts

in psychology from SUNY Albany, her Master of Science in school psychology from St. John's University and her school district leadership certification from SUNY Stony Brook. She is a member of the Long Island Association of Special Education Administrators and NYSED Directors.

Janet Boyle



Currently in her third year of teaching, Janet Boyle formerly taught in the NYC public schools. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and adolescent education from SUNY Cortland and is in the final stages of completing her Master of Science in applied linguistics/TESOL from Queens College. She will be serving as a full-time leave replacement for ninth- and tenth-grade English.

Megan Nelsen



Formerly teaching at the Woodward Children's Center in Freeport, Megan Nelsen joins Mineola High School as a part-time Spanish teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and history and a Master of Arts in Spanish linguistics, both from SUNY Albany. Megan earned her teaching certification from the College of St. Rose in Albany.

Diane Nodell



Currently in her 10th year of teaching, Diane Nodell will serve as the librarian of Hampton Street School's new library media center. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in marketing from Hofstra University and her Master of Library Sciences from Queens College. She joins Mineola from the South Huntington School District.

Laura Schneebaum



A nurse for more than 20 years, Laura Schneebaum joins Mineola as Hampton Street School's new registered nurse. A member of the NYS Association of School Nurses, she has been a school nurse for more than seven years, and was a critical care nurse prior to that. Ms. Schneebaum holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Syracuse University and a masters degree in public administration from New York University.

"Reading Rocks"

Is Region Winner

Jackson Avenue PTA's Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Committee has been recognized as the 2012 Nassau Region PARP Winner. The 2011-12 PARP program, titled "Reading Rocks," received the top honor based upon its merits of being comprehensive, imaginative and fun for the children. Jackson's program was chosen based upon an application submitted by the PTA to the Nassau Region PTA. Their entry has now moved on to the New York State PTA PARP Committee for review and further consideration.

"All of the Rock Stars at Jackson helped us earn this award by participating so enthusiastically," Jackson Avenue PTA Vice President Patricia Medved said of the program. "We put the time into planning and managing the PARP program and the kids did their part by reading and having fun with it."

Patricia co-chairs the PARP Committee with Michele Zaransky.

The pair is in the process of planning another exciting PARP program for this year.

Pinwheels for Peace

Students at Mineola Middle School joined in the worldwide Pinwheels for Peace project to celebrate the International Day of Peace on Friday, Sept. 21. The courtyard of the school was decorated with pinwheels, representing a visual statement about peace. Pictured are some of the more than 100 pinwheels, which lined the middle school's courtyard that afternoon.



Beautifying Barth Commons

Students from the Mineola Summer Program, which was housed at the middle school this summer, took on the task of cleaning up the newly named Barth Commons. The commons were named in honor of Mark Barth, who recently retired from serving as principal of the school. Seventh- and eighth-graders in Mr. Greer's class led the way under the direction of Al Weidlein, the program's principal.



The students weeded the gardens located just outside the library, cultivated the soil and put down a layer of black mulch. The result is a neat, clean, beautiful garden spot. All of the students had Mr. Barth as their principal, so it was especially meaningful to them.

The project was in keeping with the summer program's overall theme of community service.

Teacher Selected for Leadership Council

Jane Whearty, a second-grade teacher at Hampton Street School, has been selected to be a part of the Long Island Writing Project's (LIWP) new Leadership Council. She was chosen for this honor based upon her participation in a four-week 2009 LIWP Summer Invitational, in addition to her interest in joining the team. LIWP is the local chapter of the National Writing Project site, which belongs to a network of 200 sites across the country dedicated to developing teacher leadership and improving student performance.



As a member of the elite Leadership Council, Ms. Whearty took part in a four-day retreat over the summer to focus on the needs of area teachers and schools. She will be collaborating with the LIWP and Mineola's teacher team throughout the year in an effort to launch new programs, support area teachers and provide professional development opportunities to colleagues.

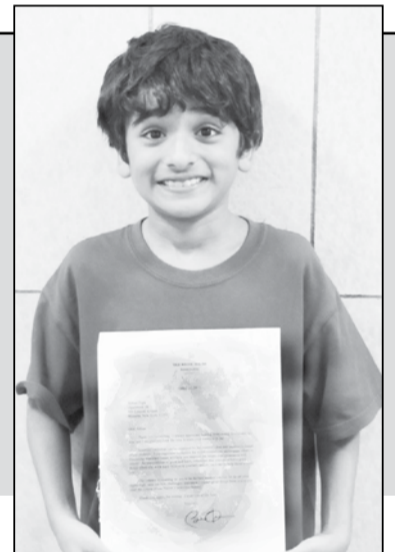
"Jane is a valuable resource for the LIWP, your school and your district," Director of LIWP Melanie Hammer said in a letter to Hampton Principal Devra Small.

Ms. Whearty has over 30 years of teaching experience, the past 25 of which she has been a part of the Mineola family.



Writing to Our President

Adnan Tapa, a fourth-grade student at Jackson Avenue, recently took it upon himself to express his concern over world actions with President Barack Obama. After seeing news footage of fighting in Syria and having a discussion with his mother on why it was happening, he decided to write a letter to the president. This past summer, Adnan received a response from the White House that included photos of the first family and a letter thanking him for his interest and urging him to do his best in school. Adnan plans to follow up with another letter to the president, thanking him for taking the time to respond.



Marching into the 2012 Season

The 2012 Mineola High School marching band season is off to a fast and very successful start with the band taking first-place at its first two competitions. The students spent many hours over the summer at school and upstate at band camp preparing for this year's show, which is titled "Everest - Journey to the Top of the World." The music, which strongly features the percussion section along with a baritone horn duet, has a distinctive feel to it and the visuals showcase the many colors of the rainbow.

Most recently, the marching band continued its winning ways by taking first place in its class at the Pursuit of Pride Competition at Malverne High School. The students earned a score of 78.35 and are near the top of their class in New York State.

The students have been working hard and the show keeps getting better. Each week, new layers are added to keep the performances exciting and fresh.

The band is pictured during their award-winning performance in Malverne.



Mustang Pride Prevails



Mineola High School celebrated its 31st annual homecoming amid the perfect mix of sun and clouds on Sept. 22, the first official day of fall. With a special salute to "Mustang Pride" as its theme, the parade kicked off with the marching band at the usual Andrews Road starting point and spread its pride throughout Jericho Turnpike and Westbury Avenue before coming to a halt at Hampton Stadium. Concluding the parade and riding the Mustang mascot were members of this year's homecoming court: Homecoming King Malcolm Brown, Homecoming Queen Natalie Kain, Junior Princess Kristyn Velez, Sophomore Princess Ana Arango and Freshman Princess Angela Steinmann.

In true Mineola fashion, the game began with a stellar rendition of the national anthem, sung by junior Rebecca Bastos. The football players then rushed the field through a banner that the cheerleaders had created for them. The Mustangs had much to be proud of throughout the game against Locust Valley High School, as they clinched the win with a score of 19-12.



UPCOMING *Events*

Tuesday, Oct. 30

Districtwide Parent University Workshop
7:00 PM

Thursday, Nov. 1

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Sunday, Nov. 4

Daylight Savings Time Ends
(Set Clocks Back an Hour)

Tuesday, Nov. 6

Schools Closed – Election Day

Monday, Nov. 12

Schools Closed – Veterans Day (Observed)

Thursday, Nov. 15

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Thursday, Nov. 22 & Friday, Nov. 23

Schools Closed – Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, Dec. 6

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Thursday, Dec. 20

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Monday, Dec. 24 – Tuesday, Jan. 1

Schools Closed – Holiday Recess

Thursday, Jan. 3

Board of Education Workshop Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

Thursday, Jan. 17

Board of Education Business Meeting
7:00 PM @ WI

SPORTS CORNER

The fall sport season is off to a great start. After a rousing pep rally at the high school, the teams were revved up and ready to compete this fall season.

The boys cross-country track team, led by Fred Lang and Jake Tavernite, has been flying high. They won the Hofstra University Invitational, with senior Fred Lang pacing the competition in the race.

The team finished third overall in the first league meet and are looking forward to the divisional meet.

The boys soccer team placed second in the annual Mustang Cup soccer tournament held at Mineola High School. They advanced to the final game after defeating Locust Valley 1-0. In the finals, they came up short against Lynbrook as the Owls took the cup. The tournament was a great experience for the players and coaches involved. The boys currently have an overall record of 2-6-1, with several of their losses coming in hard-fought one-goal games.

The girls soccer team is leading their conference. To date, they are undefeated in league play and are looking forward to a first round playoff game. The girls hosted their third annual breast cancer awareness fundraiser game at the Town of North Hempstead's Tully Park on Oct. 12.

The varsity football team is off to a 3-2 start. After dropping the season opener to Valley Stream North, the Mustangs bounced back to win the next two games against East Rockaway High School with a score of 14-8 and Locust Valley High School with a score of 19-12. After a loss to Clarke High School, they recovered again in an exciting 13-6 win over Cold Spring Harbor High School in the annual Friday Night Lights game. The team has been led on both sides of the ball by senior Brian Gaffney and is looking forward to making a playoff run as they take on Malverne, Oyster Bay and Island Trees high schools to finish the regular season.

The girls volleyball team is off to a strong 5-2 start. Although they suffered their first loss of the season in their last league match at North Shore, they have posted wins so far against East Rockaway, West Hempstead and Carle Place high schools.

The golf team has been competitive in all their matches despite a 1-4 start to the season. Chris Fischer has shown great improvement as a golfer, and Matt Eisen shot the lowest score on the team so far with a 40 at Wheatley Hills.

The athletic department will be providing an informational seminar on Monday, Nov. 5th at 7 PM in the high school cafeteria regarding the college athletic recruitment process. Wayne Mazzoni, Sacred Heart University baseball coach and published author on the subject, will be the speaker for the night. We invite anyone interested in this topic to attend.



Thespians Present Diary of Anne Frank

Mineola High School's thespians are proud to present "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the Theater at Mineola (high school auditorium) on Friday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 PM and on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Tickets will be available through the department of fine and performing arts at the high school.

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