



Summer 2009

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Rocky Point Schools

Soaring

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SARAH McDONNELL *Valedictorian*



Sarah demonstrated hard work and determination throughout her high school career to attain a 104.94 weighted academic average. She was an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar and the recipient of a scholarship to attend the 2008 Adelphi University Alice Hoffman Young Writer's Retreat. Sarah was also a member of Mock Trial, Science Club, and the Girls Varsity Tennis Team, and played the French horn in the school's marching band. On weekends, Sarah donated her time teaching Sunday school. She will attend Providence College in the fall to pursue a business or law degree.

ALEXANDRA SANTIAGO *Salutatorian*



Alexandra earned a 104.91 weighted academic average during her high school career. She was a scholar-athlete, having played on the Girls Varsity Soccer, Spring Track and Basketball Teams. Alexandra was a member of the National Honor Society and Math Honor Society, president of the Science Club, and student government vice president. Alexandra participated in a number of fundraisers through the Leaders Club, tutored younger students through the peer tutoring program, and was a member of the school's marching band. This fall, she will continue her studies at Stony Brook University.

BASMAH EL-GENDI *Exhortation Speaker*



As the third-ranked (academic) member in her class, Basmah graduated with a 103.46 weighted academic average and as an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar. As a member of Student Council, she served as the Class of 2009 vice president and was a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Math Team, and Mock Trial. Basmah also designated a large portion of her free time to peer tutoring and worked on the Adopt-A-Family food drive. She will attend Stony Brook University in the fall.

CLASS OF 2009 BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER

Under the direction of music chairperson Amy Schecher, the Rocky Point High School band played the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance," graduate Joanna Hagan sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" and approximately 250 graduates marched onto the field to receive their much-deserved diplomas during the school's annual Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2009.

Exhortation speaker Basmah El-Gendi was the first to address the audience filled with administrators, faculty, and proud family and friends on the topics of happiness and the grasping of opportunities.

"Everyone has to take it upon themselves to make the next step," she stated. "What we do today determines our happiness tomorrow."

Rocky Point Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio congratulated the grads, their parents and the staff for all of their dedication on the road to achievement.

Salutatorian Alexandra Santiago then encouraged her peers to "pay it forward" by performing random

acts of kindness. "A random act of kindness and an optimistic outlook will go a long way," Alexandra explained.

Gaining wisdom through trial and error was the emphasis of Valedictorian Sarah McDonnell's speech. She explained that perseverance helped others, like Thomas Edison, to make a difference in the world. "We all make mistakes," she declared. "We will have to learn to turn our mistakes into something useful. Never give up," Sarah told her fellow graduates.

In his closing remarks to the Class of 2009, high school principal William Caulfield congratulated the parents on their hardworking and determined graduates, who have achieved high levels of academic success. He also urged the Class of 2009 to remain committed to achievement. "Hard work is the price you must pay for success," he stated.

For a complete list of the Class of 2009 and some fast facts about the class, please refer to pages 4-5.

"Hard work is the price you must pay for success."

- WILLIAM CAULFIELD, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

INSIDE

- Graduates & Class Facts
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A Message from Your Superintendent

DR. CARLA D'AMBROSIO

Summer is traditionally a time for students and parents to wind down after a busy school year. For many, attention turns to going to camp, attending swimming lessons, mingling with friends, and participating in other outdoor activities that have little to do with academics.

The Rocky Point administration would like to encourage parents to include reading in this year's summer schedule. Research shows that children who read during the summer are more likely to maintain and gain literacy skills, while those who do not read are more vulnerable to learning losses. Now is a great time to visit the public library and engage your child with interesting books and literacy-related activities that you, too can take part in. Reading aloud to children before bedtime or during a hot summer afternoon, may also increase a child's lifelong interest in reading.

New Leadership in Our Schools

Due to budget constraints, the District restructured administrative positions. When students and parents at the middle school return for the fall semester, Dr. Scott O'Brien will welcome them as the school's new principal. Dr. O'Brien, who has served as principal of Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School the last three years, began his career working with middle school students and comes with a strong background in

literacy and special education.

Mr. Kenneth Crawford, formerly assistant principal at Joseph A. Edgar Elementary School, has been appointed to follow Dr. O'Brien as acting principal of FJC.

Mr. Joseph Tapler will serve as the new assistant principal at Joseph A. Edgar Elementary School. Mr. William Caulfield will remain as principal of the high school with Ms. Crossan and Ms. Sullivan as assistant principals. FJC, JAE, and the Middle School will each be staffed with one principal and one assistant principal.

District Fights Governor's Veto

We recently learned the governor vetoed legislation that would have provided our District with an average of \$120,000 per year in building aid, plus reimbursement for associated interest expense, over the course of 20 years.

The governor's veto of this legislation has no impact on the District's 2009-2010 budget.

This money was dedicated to help offset the cost of capital projects carried out as part of the 1999 bond initiative and was not budgeted as revenue for this year. We are extremely disappointed that the governor did not follow the lead of the State Senate and Assembly – both of whom approved the legislation. Passage of such bills is historically unanimous and signed into law without question.

New York State School Boards Association staff members have reached out to officials of both legislative chambers and the governor's office in an attempt to appeal the veto and we intend to resubmit our legislation. Please note

that Rocky Point is not alone: other school districts affected by the governor's vetoes include Port Washington, Mount Vernon, Highland Falls, Schenectady, Whitehall and Eden Central Schools. There are 10 other districts with similar legislation pending, including Copiague and North Bellmore here on Long Island.

Transportation Policy to Remain Intact

After much consideration and taking into account the consensus of community feedback, I have recommended to the Board not to implement the proposed transportation consolidation plan presented to the community on July 1, 2009. It is clear from the community response that the value of current bus routing is deemed greater than the savings that would be gained through the District's proposal. We will continue to analyze expenditures and explore new efficiencies in an effort to reduce costs, while maintaining our strong instructional, extracurricular and support programs. I would like to thank the members of the community for responding online or through emails. Your active involvement in giving us your input was appreciated.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I thank the community for supporting the 2009/10 school district budget. We are already preparing for opening day.

May the remainder of the summer be safe, and filled with good beach weather for everyone. I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

QUALITY IN INSTRUCTION

The Rocky Point School District would like to congratulate the following teachers who were granted tenure during the 2008-2009 school year.

Donna Banigan – *Elementary Education*

Nicholas Butcher – *Music*

Nicole Conforti – *Special Education*

Heather Farella – *English (Grades 7-12)*

Nicole Fernandez – *English as a Second Language (ESL)*

Eileen Fioto – *Special Education*

Michael Gabriel – *Math/Science/Technology Coordinator*

Deirdre Gibbins – *Social Studies*

Jennie Graziano – *English (Grades 7-12)*

Courtney Herbert – *Assistant Principal*

Kyra Kenwood – *Music*

Kristyn Kistingner – *Elementary Education*

Jessica Lukas – *Special Education*

Elizabeth McCabe – *Elementary Education*

Andrea Moscatiello – *Secondary Special Education Coordinator*

Cynthia Nardiello – *Special Education*

Scott O'Brien – *Principal*

Kim O'Connor – *Special Education*

Megan Parise – *Special Education*

Patricia Redican – *Speech and Hearing Handicapped/Speech Language Pathologist*

Thanks for Your Service

The district bids farewell to six exceptional staff members who have retired this school year and extends a sincere thanks for their many years of excellent service to Rocky Point students.

Sherry Alessandro – *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Administration (8 years)*

Barbara Bardunias – *Senior Clerk Typist (7 years)* Lynne Basileo – *Business Education Teacher (30 years)*

Kevin McKenna – *Custodial Worker (3 ½ years)* Robert Perret – *School Psychologist (30 years)*

Grace Varbero – *Special Education Teacher (20 years)*

WELCOME A-BOARD!

The Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting on July 1, swearing in newly elected trustees and voting for new Board officers. Michael Nofi was elected to serve as president, and Diane Burke as vice president. District Clerk Patricia Jones swore in new trustees Michael Ferrara and John Lessler.

At the June meeting of the Board of Education, the trustees recognized past president Joseph Sanseverino and vice president Margaret Smith for their years of commitment and dedication to the school district. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio presented each of the former trustees with a plaque.



Moving Up the Academic Ladder

As the 2008-2009 school year came to a close, Rocky Point students and teachers embraced the excitement and thrill of the impending summer. The final weeks of school were also a time for reflection and celebration, as hundreds of young scholars moved on to a new chapter in their educational careers during the district's commencement exercises. Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School Principal Dr. Scott O'Brien, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School Principal Carol Tvelia, and Middle School Principal William Caulfield dispensed words of wisdom and congratulations, and wished their graduates the best of luck in their new levels of study. Congratulations to all of the students who have moved up the ladder to future academic successes!



A Tradition of Excellence

Sixty Rocky Point High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society by officers Nicole Reany (treasurer), Caitlin Mallin (secretary), Michael Lopez (president), and Stephanie Osmanski (vice president) during a traditional candlelighting ceremony to honor the best and brightest scholars. The inductees were chosen for their outstanding achievements both inside and outside of the classroom and for having fulfilled the Society's requirements of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.



A Love of Writing

Rocky Point High School student Krista Mauro was published in the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Journal. Her article praised former first-grade teacher Cecelia Doolittle's ability to kindle a love of writing in elementary students like her former self. During a Board of Education meeting, Krista presented Ms. Doolittle with a basket to collect future student writings, decorated with a label that read "Mrs. Doolittle's Diamonds: A Collection of Published Books."



Redesigning Rocky Point

Team Inspire secured a first-place win among four other Rocky Point High School teams in the first annual Career Advisory Partnership Competition. CAPathon is a contest to help students learn about entrepreneurship through the development and presentation of a business idea. CAP judges were impressed by all of the teams' business plans to "Redesign Rocky Point," which was this year's competition theme.

Team Inspire members, (l-r), Jade Herbstman, Cindy Siefert, and Charlotte Davis, proposed a plan to renovate and install additional sidewalks and assist in the building of the Rails to Trails project, as well as a proposal for an ice skating rink. The students each received a \$100 Visa gift card, donated by the Bank of Smithtown and the Council of Dedicated Merchants.

The students are pictured with former Board of Education President Joseph Sanseverino, CAP Education Chair Nick Pappas, and Board Vice President Diane Burke.



Caring for

Wounded Soldiers

Second-grade students in Stacy Iberger's class at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School decided to cheer up the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., with the delivery of decorated care packages. Donations of toiletries, writing utensils, and puzzles were collected from the students' families, staff members and the district's office of administration. Students decorated the bags with patriotic themes and flags and included a letter of thanks with each care package.



Congratulations to the 2009 Graduates!



Christopher Alayon
 Christine Antunovich
 Alyssa Noelle Audette
 Matthew Kurt Bachert
 Craig Randy Baer
 Nicholas Michael Barbarite
 Amanda Baron
 John Thomas Benante
 Ryan K. Berg
 John Bernard
 Margaret Elizabeth Bernhardt
 Jacklyn Ann Blakley
 Kevin Lawrence Blieka
 Cassidy Rose Bohan
 James Arthur Bouker
 TracyAnn Boyle
 Sarah Bradley
 Erica Ashley Brooks
 Joshua Burkert
 Alexander Francis Cain
 Nicholas Charles Calace
 Joseph Cambridge
 Aimee Catherine Capps
 Holly Christine Carneiro
 Andrew Z. Carnival
 Michael Louis Carotenuto
 Brian Charles Carter
 Michael Daniel Caruso
 Nicole T. Catanzaro
 Gerard Victor Ceccio

Christofer Chiuchiolo
 Britt Fischer Christiansen
 William Christie
 Gabriele Ciurinskaite
 Spencer Charles Clasper
 Taylor Lynn Clasper
 Darin David Collins
 Lethia M. Collins
 Richard Corria Jr.
 Anthony Costarelli
 Alison E. Costello
 Danielle Mary Cover
 Peter John Craig
 Sean Thomas Craig
 Sara Ann Davis
 Daniel James Delahunty
 Jake Richard Delesparra
 Joseph N. DeRosa
 Anthony Daniel DiStefano
 Craig Dixon
 Constantinos Doumanis
 Jessie Lee Duncan
 Caitlin R. Eamotte
 Basmah El-Gendi
 Paula M. Encalada
 Justin Engelhardt
 Barbara Vivien Erdei
 Lawrence J. Falco Jr.
 Thomas Joseph Farley
 Richard G. Fehr

Erik Thomas Ferrer
 Jacqueline Amber Fertig
 Kevin James Fitzpatrick
 Keith Vincent Fleury
 James Roger Foti
 Stacy Ann Frank
 Ryan Neal Freund
 Amanda Noel Galasso
 Matthew Galit
 Mollie M. Gallagher
 Shaina Gambino
 Kristen Michelle Ganzer
 Michael Patrick Gargan
 Michael William Garvey
 Angela Lynne Gennarelli
 Christopher Steven Germaine
 Stefano Benito Giuliani
 Caitlin Ann Glossza
 Ryan J. Graf
 Brittany Ann Grief
 John Nicholas Guido
 Joanna Grace Hagan
 William Joseph Hall III
 Adam Christopher Hansen
 Tyler Hansen
 Daniel Robert Harrington
 Timothy Robert Harris
 Timothy James Hawkins
 Michael John Herrera
 Michael Hogan

Thomas Brandon Hogan
 Timothy Vincent Hotzoglou
 Ryan Gerard Hubner
 Ashlyn J. Hyams
 Matthew Vincent Pearson Iaria
 Desmond Antonio Jackson
 Elizabeth Anne Joel
 Cassie Lee Jonaitis
 Asianne Kaiser
 Robert Kaminski
 Lauren Marie Karlsen
 Peter Daniel Keane
 Amelia R. Kelly
 Justin J. Kiefer
 Erika Dawn Kincaid
 Thomas James King
 Jamie Leann Kirsch
 Kenneth Anthony Stewart
 Kohlhof
 Gregory John Koridis
 Kevin Joseph Kratzel
 David Laboy
 Alexander Patrick LaCascia
 Robert V. Lattman
 Brittany Coral LaVista
 Molly Rose Leckie
 Christie Lynn LeDuc
 Carl Stephen Lepine
 Brian Michael Levix
 Taylor Lynne Little

Class of 2009's TOP 10

Sarah McDonnell – Providence College
 Alexandra Santiago – Stony Brook University
 Basmah El-Gendi – Stony Brook University
 Michael Lopez – Rochester Institute of Technology
 Patrick Montalto – Stony Brook University
 Cassie Jonaitis – Hartwick College
 Shannon Stark – St. Joseph's College
 Philip Rado – Flagler College
 Thomas Quartararo – Stony Brook University
 Katherine Thalen – New York University

CLASS FACTS

- 87% of the graduating class earned a Regents Diploma or higher
- 30% earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation
- 18% earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and Honors
- 90% will further their education in the fall
- 53% of the class will attend 4-year colleges
- 37% of the class will attend 2-year colleges or technical schools
- One student will enlist in the military
- 9.5% will head directly into the workforce

Briana Renee Locicero-Casazza
 Charles Vincent Irons Lopez
 Michael James Lopez
 Nicole Marie Lozito
 Lauren Alexandra Lukasz
 Lauren Anne Mac Elveen
 John Michael Maggio
 Brendan James Francis Malley
 Caitlin Wai Mallin
 Kathryn Mary Maloney
 Nicholas Thomas Manne
 Nicholas Darren Marciano
 Paulina Anna Markiewicz
 Ashley Marie Martin
 Steven Michael Martino
 Nicole Lauren Mayer
 Nicole Ann Mazza-See
 Alexis Lee McAllister
 Melissa Anne McCabe
 James Joseph McCabe Jr.
 Sarah K. McDonnell
 Ryan Elizabeth McGovern
 Christine Elizabeth
 McLaughlin
 Kenneth Bryan McLaughlin
 Brian Thomas McNamara
 Timothy McNamara
 Samantha Victoria McPhail
 Lisa Ann Meyer
 Robert Milano Jr.
 Cory Joseph Monks
 Patrick F. Montalto
 Christie Nichole Moran
 Christopher James Morton
 Krystyn Moutinho
 Adrea Marie Murphy
 Kacey Patricia Murphy
 Maria Lynn Musantry

Frank Anthony Oliveira
 Matthew Brandon Oliver
 Catherine Rose Ortolani
 Stephanie Patricia Anne
 Osmanski
 Thomas John Othen Jr.
 Matthew Stephan Pabo
 Donald James Pachinger
 Lawrence Brian Pagano
 Matthew J. Palasek
 Austin James Pasquarelli
 Johnathan Edward Passaro
 Brandan M. Perdomo
 Anthony Michael Peterson
 Kyle Anthony Petrano
 Laurie Beth Phillips
 Dominick Frank Piganell
 Mathew Sueng Bin Pil
 Stephanie Ann Pisano
 Katrina Marie Podosek
 Timothy Ernst Popko
 Paul M. Pucciariello
 Samantha Jamie Puricelli
 Thomas Sean Quartararo
 Maureen Kathryn Quinn
 Philip A. Rado Jr.
 Nicole Concetta Reany
 Konrad P. Remiszewski
 Joseph P. Richard
 Stephanie Lynn Richards
 Kathleen Arielle Riordan
 Paige Elizabeth Rivera
 Katie Jeanine Rogers
 Abigail Erin Ross
 Vincent Christopher Rudolf
 Brian Andrew Russell
 Andrew D. Russo
 Danielle Jade Sanford

Alexandra Santiago
 Yougesh Sayrange
 Christine Marie Scavetta
 Brett Andrew Schmidt
 Chandler Thomas Schmidt
 Timothy Brian Schoeneman
 Cameron Dominick Sciotto
 Jaime Marie Seno
 Urooj Shahid
 Sarah Shane
 Brian F. Shuker Jr.
 Cindy Janet Siefert
 William D. Singh
 Brooke L. Sinnott
 Daniel Robert Smiles
 Zachariah Paul Smith
 Moira E. Sonnessa
 Robert James Spage
 Andrew James Sparling
 Gregory Paul Stanisci
 Shannon Madeline Stark
 Roxanne Elizabeth Stegos-Brucoli
 Gabriel Louis Stevenson
 Rudolpho Carl Sullo
 Tyler Cameron Supper

Wayne F. Swedberg Jr.
 Amber Lynn Tamberino
 Katherine Anne Thalen
 Derek Ryan Thurston
 Matthew Ryan Toohey
 Victoria Lyn Troy
 Michael J. Vaccaro
 Jake James Vanek
 Mary Cala Veach
 Jeffrey Michael Vilardi
 Brian F. Voigt
 Molly Ann Walker
 Jared Nathan Webster
 Melissa Amber Weinstein
 Shelley Marie Weresnick
 Ethan Z. Wheeler
 Kevin Robert Whelan
 Anthony Phillip Wider
 Ricki Lee Wokoun
 Jennifer Lynn Wright
 Jessica Marie Wright
 Nicole Lindsay Yorlano
 Ashley Catherine Zanetti
 Cheryl Rose Zeiser



Integrating Technology

Elementary school teacher and integration specialist Laurie Variale was recognized by the Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Educational Technologies (ASSET) for her outstanding work in integrating technology into the curriculum at the Joseph A. Edgar Elementary School. Ms. Variale has provided students with the necessary skills for the 21st century world of technology and has worked closely with administrators, teachers, and staff to conduct professional development workshops throughout the school year.



Sharing Musical Talents

Joseph A. Edgar Elementary School chorus teacher Craig Knapp is one of 24 music teachers across the state who has been asked to provide a videotaped music lesson for a New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) DVD. Mr. Knapp and the High Notes group were filmed in the elementary chorus division.



The purpose of this project is to provide the music teaching and learning community with a resource to deepen educational understanding of the New York State Arts and National Content Standards through exemplary models of instruction. These DVDs will be distributed free of charge to every public school and NYSSMA-member private school in New York State, as well as colleges and universities that offer music education courses.

LIGHTS AND ACTION

Three Rocky Point High School students received a prestigious and highly acclaimed STARS Award for their dramatic talents on stage. Patterned after Broadway's *Tony Awards*, the second annual Student Theater Arts Recognition Scholarship Awards Program (STARS) was sponsored by the Greater Port Jefferson Northern Brookhaven Arts Council, WAL*MART, Suffolk County Community College, and other local businesses and educational institutions. During a Board of Education meeting, the recipients were recognized for their work on the district's theatrical productions of *The Miracle Worker* and *Oklahoma*: Two of the three are shown being congratulated by theater teacher Heather Farella and high school principal William Caulfield. Carlton Welch is not pictured.

Congratulations to the following aspiring thespians:

Christopher Germaine

Supporting Actor in a Drama
Mr. Keller in *The Miracle Worker*

Brian Viccaro

Lead Actor in a Drama
James in *The Miracle Worker*

Carlton Welch

Leading Actor in a Musical
Curly in *Oklahoma*



Up to the Challenge

Students at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School are well versed on world geography. Out of the 46 schools that participated in the National Geography Challenge, FJC tied for 8th place, and 4th out of all schools located in the tri-state area. FJC students also placed first out of all participating New York State Schools.



One student from each class was recognized for receiving the highest class exam score and include Maxwell Alkon, Jennifer Bradley, Julia Brandow, Cassidy Diasparra, Austin Garske, Michael Gunning, Connor Hamilton, Juli Petreczky, Owen Rinn, Damon Sanchez, Christopher Small, and Josh Vogel.

Additionally, second graders Owen Rinn, Julia Brandow, and Michael Gunning (pictured above) earned perfect scores (25 out of 25) on the National Geography Challenge exam.

A Sense of Style

A passion for hair was the impetus for several Rocky Point students garnering awards for their evening hair styles in several cosmetology competitions. Tracy Boyle acquired a third-place win in the regional SkillsUSA Club competition at Farmingdale College. Students Ariel Herbstman and Keyri Hernandez, pictured with teacher and program director Jeanne Stiasny, also received first and second-place wins, respectively, in the 45th annual Cosmetology Teacher's Guild Contest.

The district's cosmetology program is now entering its fifth year of operation with an enrollment of 20 students. The students regularly invite the public to make appointments for spa services on Fridays, providing haircuts, blowouts, facials, manicures, pedicures, waxing, and more.



Celebrating Technology

Technology is an important part of the district's curriculum, as evidenced by the 15 teachers and 30 students who presented projects at the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Model Schools Ninth Annual Celebration of Technology in Education at Stony Brook University. The focus of the program, entitled "How to Think Globally and Act Locally," was to provide live demonstrations of the instructional technologies utilized in area schools and to enhance standards-based learning.



With Deepest Sympathy

The Rocky Point School District would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the family of tenth-grade student Daniel Mauricio Cornejo Carranza. Our thoughts are with you at this time of need.

Young Naturalists

Nine Rocky Point students from grades 7-12 were named finalists and semifinalists in the Young Naturalist Awards Competition, sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. "Scientific Discovery Begins with Curiosity!" was the theme for the inquiry-based contest that recognizes the accomplishments of student-scientists who have investigated questions in the areas of biology, earth science, ecology, and astronomy.



A panel of judges included science teachers, environmentalists, and museum scientists and educators who reviewed each student's research and essays in support of their investigation. All participants received a certificate and a letter that highlighted the strong points of their science projects and suggestions for improvement.

Finalists Matthew Amoscato and Lauren Giannotti each received a \$50 cash prize award. The district would like to congratulate Matthew, Lauren and semifinalists Taylor Campbell, Katrina Galvin, Steven Haeffner, Sidarth Menon, Martina Nadeau, Aylin Ozen, and Chadé Walker.

A PASSION FOR *Art and Writing*

Middle school students in grades 6-8 were recognized for their outstanding poetry, prose, and art skills during the seventh annual Lois Lowry Literary Art Contest Awards ceremony. Members of the English Language Arts (ELA) Department judged the submissions and chose the winning entries that were published in a booklet for the entire student body.

Lois Lowry is a Newbery Award-winning author, best known for her *Anastasia* book series about a middle school girl and her experiences and life lessons. The Rocky Point ELA Department founded the contest in the author's honor.



REACHING OUT TO SENIORS

Rocky Point students in the intermediate and middle schools used their free time this school year to reach out to members of the senior citizen community. Teacher Patricia Alberti's fourth graders visited the Woodhaven Nursing Home as a class service project that included the decoration of the facility and the collection and donation of blankets, cologne, and jewelry.

Additionally, management at the Port Jefferson HealthCare Facility recently acknowledged the middle school service club, under the direction of advisor Agnes Nitiri, for its donation of time to play games, read, and keep the residents company.

"You are among the best of the students we have here at the middle school," Assistant Principal Joseph Tapler told the students.



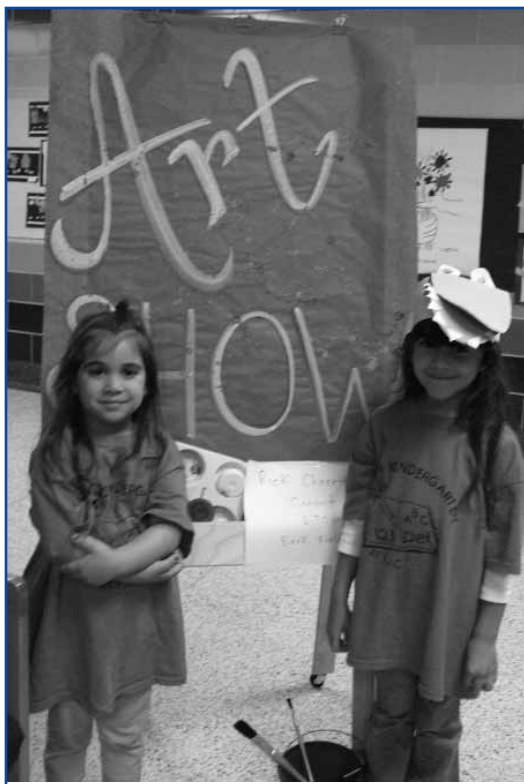
SPREADING THE NEWS

Eagle's Eye editor-in-chief Stephanie Osmanski and school journalists Tyler Bittner, Jackie Maggio, Matt Marrazzo, and Molly Walker were selected as winners in the annual *Newsday* School Journalism Awards Contest. The students competed against high school newspaper writers from across Long Island and received accolades for sports writing and news writing. Stephanie was recognized for her role in the success of the reporters and the newspaper.



EXPRESSION THROUGH ART

Hundreds of students throughout the district participated in their school's annual art show for families and peers to enjoy. Senior Advanced Placement (AP) Art students were given the opportunity to showcase their eclectic styles, while middle school students plastered the hallways with many colorful and masterful student renderings. For the first time, students at JAE used SMART Board technology to display various projects during the school's Art and Technology Show, while Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School enjoyed an evening of art and music during the annual Art and Song on the Lawn event.



August 3
Board of Education
Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

August 25
Kindergarten Orientation

August 27
Kindergarten
"Kinder-Social"

September 2
First Day of School

September 7
Labor Day - No School

Spring Sports Wrap-Up

Baseball

Peter Craig – League VI MVP,
All-County, All-League
Sean Craig – All-League
John Guido – Academic All-League
Tim Popko – All-League
Phil Rado – All-County, All-League

Softball

Hope Heiselman – All-League
Cassie Jonaitis – All-Conference
Annie Kennedy – All-Conference,
Rookie of the Year
Nicole Reany – All-Conference
Brittany Stevenson –
All-Conference

Girls Lacrosse

Aimee Capps – All-American
Honorable Mention, All-County,
All-Division
Sara Davis – All-County,
All-Division
Christie Dougherty – All-Division
Caitlin Gargan – All-County,
All-Division
Jessica Hassett – Honorable
Mention All-County, All-Division

Emily Mercier – All-Division,
All-Tournament
Ryan McGovern – All-Division
Kara Mupo – All-American,
All-County, All-Division
Julie Nolan – All-County,
All-Division
Abby Ross – All-County,
All-Division, All-Tournament
Hailey Sanchez – Unsung Hero
Tracey Wandle - All-Division

Boys Lacrosse

Tim Hawkins – All-Division
Tom Kelly – All-County,
All-Division
Mike Muller – All-County,
All-Division
Matt Palasek – All-American
Honorable Mention, All-County,
All-Division
Matt Staker – All-Division
Peter Vivonetto – All-County,
All-Division

Boys Track and Field

Brandon Loomis – School Record
in High Jump (6'6"), 1st Place in
High Jump in State Qualifiers,
3rd seed at State Championships,
Finished 7th in State.
Kevin Vasko – All-League

Girls Track and Field

Cassidy Bohan – All-League
Maureen Quinn – All-League
Caitlin Mallin – All-League
Jessica Whelan – All-League

Boys Tennis

Sam Agoglia – All-League
Adam Pometti – All-League

Boys Swimming

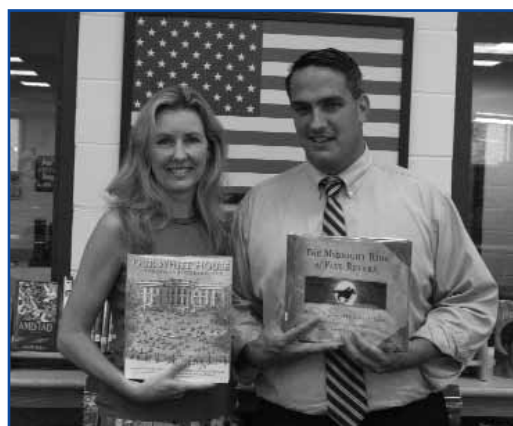
Matt Dutton – All-County 100m
Butterfly/500m Freestyle

Wrestling

Billy Coggins – All-State
Steven Dutton – NYS Champion
135 Pounds and All-State
(46-0 record)
Anthony Volpe – All-State

We the PEOPLE

The Rocky Point Middle School library has received *We the People Bookshelf* monies, a Federal grant that provides a 17-book library about the electoral process, the president, the vice president, and the secretary of state, as well as the bicentennial celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Three of the 17 books are written in Spanish and tie into the school's social studies curriculum. Each year, the library will add additional literature to make the shelf relevant to the world and the country's current events.



Excelling at *Business and Marketing*

Eight high school students were inducted into the New York State Business and Marketing Honor Society during an awards ceremony conducted by business teachers, administrators and parents. In addition, 18 students received awards for their achievements in the district's business and marketing classes. More than 400 students are enrolled in business and marketing classes at Rocky Point High School.



District Mission Statement

The mission of the Rocky Point Union Free School District is to develop each child's full potential in a nurturing and supportive student-centered environment that will promote a foundation for lifelong learning.



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Michael Nofi, *President*
Diane Burke, *Vice President*
Edward Darcey, *Trustee*
Michael Ferrara, *Trustee*
John Lessler, *Trustee*

ADMINISTRATION
Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio
Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michael Ring
Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Anja Groth
Acting Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Eileen F. Manitta
Director of Special Education

Annette Sclafani
Director of Student Services

Leonard Kies
Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics, and Intramurals