



Your

Spring Issue 2017 • www.wbschools.org

Schools

Linking Schools and Community

The partnership between the school district and the community is an essential tool to help students connect their learning to their home environment. The connection is mutually beneficial, as students have the chance to help those in need and community members reap the benefits of having tech-savvy students in their stores and offices.

The senior high school's Leo Club, the junior version of the Lions Club, work closely with business leaders in the community to connect students to various internships and work experiences. Students are exposed to a real-world working environment, while business owners have the opportunity to utilize their technological skills and abilities.

The Leo Club is working with the Main Street Organization for a spring cleanup. Members of the community and students will work together in the beautification of the community, planting flowers and cutting weeds throughout certain areas.

Throughout the school year, the Leo Club also participates in activities such as P.S. I Love You Day, teaching acceptance and self-respect and donating proceeds to the National Association of Mental Illness, Adopt-A-Family fundraisers during the holiday season, and a buddy walk to raise funds for autism awareness.

The district works alongside the West Babylon Main Street Organization for Backpacks for Hunger. These food drives are coordinated to help feed students and their families. The drives are held at local supermarkets and the donations are given to families before school breaks.

For the first time, the district will host a Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Students, families and community members can come together overnight on June 3 and 4 to raise money for cancer research and celebrate cancer survivors.

The junior high school's Community Service Club takes on different ways to connect to the community each month. They make Thanksgiving placemats for the holiday dinner and cards for veterans at the East Neck Nursing Home during November and December. In April, the students turn puzzle pieces into keychains and pins, which they sell during lunch periods for autism awareness.

Elementary students are also actively engaged community

Our students always go above and beyond when it comes to lending a helping hand to their peers and their community. I'm proud to see them make changes close to home and beyond.

**– Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly,
Superintendent of Schools**

participants. During the holidays, the schools conduct mitten, toy and food drives to help community members in need throughout the winter months. The elementary schools also take part in various fundraisers that benefit national organizations such as the American Heart Association.



WEST BABYLON SCHOOL DISTRICT
10 FARMINGDALE ROAD
WEST BABYLON, NY 11704

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 111
BABYLON, NY

*****ECRWSS*****

Residential Customer

COMMUNITY

Each spring, the district holds a Wellness Fair and Fun Run, with members of the local community joining together with the district to host evening activities for students and their families, including Zumba, yoga, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts.



The JHS Garden Club grows and maintains an organic vegetable garden every year. The club takes care of 16 raised beds, where they grow tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, corn, eggplant, various beans, peppers, squash, blackberries, raspberries, onions, garlic, herbs and sunflowers. Most of the produce from their garden is donated to the local food pantry, but students also get to take fresh vegetables home.



The Senior High School will host a Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. To date, there are more than 150 students and 25 teams participating. The Relay for Life fundraiser will be on June 3 from 6 p.m. to June 4 at 7 a.m. at the Junior High School track.



Tooker Avenue held its fifth annual "Souper Bowl" soup drive in the weeks leading up to the big game. Students wore their favorite team jersey to school and donated a can of soup. The collection was donated to the food pantry at Our Lady of Grace Church.



The West Babylon Bald Eagles – a team consisting of administrators, staff, students and family members – raised more than \$12,000 to help find a cure for childhood cancer during St. Baldrick's Day fundraisers in March.



The Community Service Club at the Junior High School designed their own puzzle piece pins, which they sold for \$1 during their lunch periods throughout April to raise money for autism awareness.



The Senior High School's student council collected 341 toys and raised \$1,444 to be donated to the John Theissen Children's Foundation.



The Junior High School art department, along with the eighth-grade Studio in Art class, participated in community service at Villa Rosa Pizzeria in West Babylon by spending the morning painting wintry scenes on the windows for the community's enjoyment.



Fifth-graders at South Bay are helping those in their community and saving the earth at the same time. The students, who are part of a voluntary recess enrichment group, are learning how to use plarn (yarn made out of recycled plastic bags). After watching a tutorial online, they are crocheting the plarn into upcycled sleeping mats for the homeless.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Leading the Way

West Babylon students shine when it comes to community service, with many of them going above and beyond with volunteerism. Here's an inside look at how these students are changing the community and the world.



What are they doing?

Four Senior High School students – Abby Leary, Kerry Leary, Siobhan Yostpille and Miranda Zarama – are spearheading the Relay for Life fundraiser taking place on the JHS field in June.

Why they chose this path:

Siobhan's mother is a teacher in another district that conducts a Relay for Life every year, so Siobhan recruited her friends to join the cause. "Cancer is something that has affected everyone, so it's important to bring the community together in a fun way to educate them about [it]," she said.

There's also a more personal connection, as Kerry is a cancer survivor. "This is about everyone coming together for a good cause and making a difference," Kerry said. "It's something everyone can take part in and it's also a wonderful opportunity to educate children and students."



What is she doing?

As a member of the high school's Art Club, Jillian Hajek painted ornaments that were sold at the winter concert, with the money raised going toward student scholarships. The club also held an art auction to raise funds for scholarships. In February, Jillian worked with the club and made Valentine's cards that were handed out at a local nursing home.

As a member of the Art Honor Society, Jillian participated in the Memory Project. The project takes photographs of orphans from various countries around the world, from which students paint and draw pictures. They send the completed artwork back to the orphans and receive a letter in return. As part of this ongoing project, the orphans requested photos of the art students so that they could draw them. This year, the Art Honor Society connected with an orphanage in the Ukraine.

Why she chose this path:

"I've always enjoyed art and have been a member of the Art Club since sixth grade," Jillian said. "I am normally very shy, but in art, I can be more expressive." Aside from her artistic contributions, Jillian is a Girl Scout, participating in food drives, sweater collections for a women's shelter and a teddy bear tea for local children. She is also a senior youth group leader and Sunday school teacher in her church.



What are they doing?

As members of the Leo Club, a community service-based organization and junior version of the Lions Club, Althea Baugh, Kristin Byrne, Victoria McMahon and Alexis Oliver have been busy with community-related activities. Most recently, they hosted a successful Bingo Night fundraiser. They organized the entire event – from buying bingo cards and bingo markers to creating prizes and making baskets for the Chinese auction. They also organized a safe Halloween for local children along with SADD and held a buddy walk to raise money for autism awareness.

Why they chose this path:

As a group, they feel that to make a change, you need to be the change. "To make a difference, you have to step up and make a change," they said. "We all know people who struggle in some area, and this is a way to help. Doing something positive creates a ripple effect; even though you may be doing things just to satisfy yourself, you are encouraging others to do the same. This is our generation and we need to set the example for the next generation."



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lucy Campasano, *President*
Dennis Kranz, *Vice President*, Peter Scarlatos, *Second Vice President*
Raymond Downey, *Trustee*, John Evola, *Trustee*, Cathy Gismervik, *Trustee*,
Diane Klein, *Trustee*, Jennifer Longo, *Trustee*
Jennifer Wandasiewicz, *Trustee*

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, *Superintendent of Schools*