



Character COUNTS

In addition to teaching academics and physical education, the district believes that character education and social and emotional learning promotes 21st-century skills needed for success in work and life. Through social-emotional learning, students develop the ability to regulate and express their emotions, form relationships with peers, explore their environment, and become academic and creative problem-solvers and learners. In tandem with social-emotional learning, the district provides opportunities each month to focus on character traits including responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness and respect to help shape positive behaviors on campus.

"Social and emotional skills and character education tenets are critical in helping students make responsible decisions and in reducing risky behaviors such as drug use, violence and bullying," Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction Christine Tona said. "Through

a supportive atmosphere, students become more connected to the school and are more empathetic toward peers, thus assisting in academic achievement."

Daniel Goleman, author of "Emotional Intelligence," and venture capitalist Eileen Rockefeller Growald founded the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning in 1994 with the mission to expand and advance social-emotional objectives such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. Based on the SEL model, the district's Social Emotional Awareness Learning (SEAL) committees regularly host activities to encourage a campus atmosphere free from bias, bullying and name-calling, as well as to create opportunities to promote kindness.

In addition to students reading Carol McCloud's "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids" and



Dr. Lisa Roth's "Stand Up," the district recently celebrated the annual No Name Calling Week, Kindness Is Contagious Day and P.S. I Love You Day to drive home the message that bullying and unkind words will not be tolerated on campuses. These SEAL and character education activities are initiated by staff, parents and students at Character Education/SEAL planning meetings led by Senior High School Principal Dr. Ellice Vassallo, Santapogue Principal Eleanor Levy and Junior High School Assistant Principal Jennifer Carere. Each activity stresses the acceptance of others' differences and the importance of being an "upstander," or a person who strives to perform good deeds, however small, each day.

On March 25, the district

also hosted Social Emotional Health Awareness Night at the senior high school. Presenters included students, staff, district parents, community members and representatives from Long Island mental health organizations. Those in attendance had the opportunity to attend two social-emotional health workshops, while children enjoyed a movie in the Performing Arts Center.

"These SEAL and character education activities help create a sense of unity, which in turn sponsors an environment where students can be themselves and succeed in school," said Ms. Tona.

For more information on individual school SEAL and character education activities, log onto the district website at www.wbschools.org.

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Thank You

The district wishes to express appreciation to the community for supporting the capital project bond referendum. Residents of the district voted to support the referendum by a vote of 616-376. Thank you to all residents who participated in this important vote.

"The approved bond will enable us to address much-needed repairs and renovations to our facilities to ensure that our students receive a quality education in a supportive 21st-century environment," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly.

Please log onto the district website at www.wbschools.org for updates.

A Message from Dr. YIENDHY FARRELLY

First and foremost, on behalf of the students, staff members and Board of Education, I'd like to thank the West Babylon community for supporting the capital project bond referendum. This project will enable us to address much-needed facility repairs throughout our school district. The passage of this referendum demonstrates that community residents understand the importance of maintaining and renovating district facilities for the benefit of students, staff and community residents. The first proposed phase of work has been submitted to the State Education Department. Ongoing discussions regarding the capital project occur during regularly scheduled Board meetings.

The first three months of my tenure as superintendent have certainly been interesting. What a winter! I assuredly win the award for most snow day and delayed opening messages! Despite the difficult weather, I have been proud to represent our school district at numerous functions. The high school, elementary students and staff that were part of "The Wizard of Oz" were outstanding. The students who participate in messages and intentions of kindness throughout the district display such high moral character. Students who recently signed National Letters of Intent to continue their athletic pursuits at various colleges and universities have wonderful aspirations for their future. I am extremely proud of our scholar-athletes who devote countless hours to both their academic program and co-curricular interests. I also commend our Science Olympiad team for their hard work and dedication.

With regard to our 2015-2016 school budget, we have been working diligently to develop a sound budget that maintains our programs and staff. Please visit our website for up-to-date budget information.

In the last three months, I've also had the wonderful opportunity to visit our schools and meet with district employees, the PTA Council, West Babylon's 1st Precinct representatives, the West Babylon Fire Department, the Main Street Organization and the Alumni Foundation, as well as our local assemblymen. West Babylon is a special place and everyone knows it! We all want the best for our students, schools and community. I plan to continue to engage in collaborative discussions/initiatives that focus on how we can improve staff, community and Board relations/communications, student performance/outcomes, as well as district business, finances, and operations.

I firmly agree with Ronald Reagan's statement, "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." I look forward to your assistance and support in our shared mission of educating and preparing our students for college and career paths.

Please visit our district webpage and Facebook page for district updates. I look forward to the upcoming spring weather and all of the end-of-year events, such as Blue and Gold. Go WB!

Proudly,
Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools

New District Role for Shawn Hanley

The Board of Education appointed Shawn Hanley as Executive Director for Human Resources. Mr. Hanley replaces Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly in this role, who currently serves as Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Hanley has worked for the district, starting in 2000, as a junior high school science teacher and West Babylon Teachers Association building executive. From 2002-2008, he served as the K-8 coordinator for science, subsequently serving as assistant principal at the high school for the past seven years.

"It is with great enthusiasm that I accept my appointment as executive director for human resources," he said. "I look forward to working closely with the staff and the community in providing a positive educational experience for the students of West Babylon."

Mr. Hanley received a Bachelor of Science in sociology and science from Stony Brook University. In addition, he received a Master of Science in secondary education and a Professional Diploma in educational administration from Dowling College.



Budget Process UNDERWAY

Preparations are underway for the 2015-2016 school budget. District residents are encouraged to attend these important meetings.

Tuesday, April 14	Board of Education meeting; final review and adoption of the 2015-16 Proposed Budget, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12	Board of Education meeting; Public Hearing of 2015-16 Proposed Budget, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 19	School Budget Vote and Trustee Election, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Register to Vote

Residents can register to vote on Monday through Friday, during regular school business hours, until Friday, May 15, 2015. Please visit the district clerk in the Administration Office at 10 Farmingdale Road, West Babylon, or call 631-376-7008 for additional information about registering to vote.

Ask the *Superintendent*

Have you heard news around town about the school district and are interested in receiving an official response from the district? Residents can now obtain answers to their questions by emailing ask@wbschools.org. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly will review each question and respond on the district website. You will also receive a direct email response. Please be advised that personnel and student matters cannot be discussed due to confidentiality and privacy laws.

Learning to be Socially and Emotionally Healthy

Students, parents and community members gathered together on March 25 to attend the district's second annual Social-Emotional Health Awareness Night.

During the evening, presenters discussed topics ranging from "ADHD: Strategies for Success" to "Social Media: Cyber Awareness for Parents." In the "Social Media" presentation, students helped parents understand Snapchat, Instagram and other social media platforms.

Representatives from several mental health organizations greeted visitors in the lobby, and student tour guides helped them locate program locations throughout the building. While parents attended workshops, children were in the auditorium watching "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day."



DEVELOPING *Healthy Hearts*

Healthy hearts fed healthy minds as students throughout the district participated in heart-healthy activities during the month of February. Because of the prevalence of heart disease, it has been the mindset of the district to educate students about cardiac health.

Elementary and junior high school students participated in the American Heart Association's national Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart campaigns. In the weeks prior to the events, physical education teachers held a jump rope unit and talked about heart-healthy activities. Students charted their jump rope activities and collected money from sponsors for the AHA. In addition to jumping rope, students jumped on mini trampolines, used hula-hoops and shot basketball hoops, all to raise money for cardiac research and healthy heart awareness campaigns.

District School Lunch Manager, Mrs. Jeannette Frabizio provided a workshop on healthy food choices. The students



learned about nutrient-packed food choices and were able to sample fresh foods regularly provided in the school cafeterias.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease kills more women than all cancers combined, and one in three women will die from a heart attack or stroke. With that in mind, the staff made a commitment to live a healthier lifestyle through participation in the Go Red for

Women campaign, a national campaign to bring attention to women's heart health issues. On February 6, they wore red clothing and collected donations for the AHA.

With the number of heart-healthy activities they participated in and information they received, students and staff will be more mindful of their health throughout the year.

Kudos Corner



- Junior Carolyn Armstrong and sophomore Louis Mazza, left, advanced to the regional Poetry Out Loud competition at Stony Brook University. During the contest, each student's recitation of two poems was judged on physical presence, voice, articulation, dramatic appropriateness, level of complexity, evidence of understanding, and overall performance and accuracy.
- For the second consecutive year, the senior high school's Robotics Club was a winner at the FIRST Tech Challenge qualifying tournament and advanced to the New York City/Long Island FTC Championship Tournament at the New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering in Brooklyn on March 1.
- The media centers at South Bay and Forest Avenue elementary schools were awarded the Advanced Certificate for the NOVEL NY Statewide Internet-Ready Library Framework.
- The junior high school's art department held its first student art exhibition, featuring exotic eye studies, at the West Babylon Public Library.
- Senior Geovanny Amaya was selected as a national semifinalist in the 2014-15 Coca-Cola Scholars program for his leadership, academic achievement and commitment to the community.



EAGLE Endeavors

- High school students Kyle Garcia and Melissa Riback are recipients of the Suffolk Zone Award, sponsored by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. This award recognizes one male and one female Suffolk County high school senior from each district who exemplifies outstanding scholastic ability, physical education performance and leadership qualities.
- Sophomore Brittany Korsah (pictured below), first female from West Babylon School District to qualify for the state finals, placed 23rd overall while competing in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association/New York State Federation Combined Winter Track and Field Championships at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.
- Six senior athletes (pictured above, l-r) signed National Letters of Intent to continue playing their sports on the college level.
Samantha Ruic – Winthrop University, Lacrosse
Samantha Apuzzo – Boston College, Lacrosse
Kelsey O'Connor – Florida Southern College, Lacrosse
Nicole Magioncalda – SUNY Old Westbury, Softball
Tim Krantz – Stony Brook University, Baseball
Kali Moss – Kutztown University, Soccer



Music Notes

SCMEA All-County

Thirty-eight student-musicians were selected to attend the 2015 Suffolk County Music Educators Association All-County music ensembles in February and March. Each year, Suffolk County music teachers nominate approximately 5,000 students for inclusion in this special music event, but only several hundred are selected for each divisional music festival.

In addition, the district congratulates high school musician John Paul Louis, who was one of only 24 students selected to participate in the SCMEA All-County Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

For a list of festival participants, log onto the district website at www.wbschools.org.

LISFA

Eight string players, grades 5-12, will represent the district and respective schools as participants in the 2015 Long Island String Festival Association ensembles. These talented musicians were selected from among the very best student string players in Suffolk County. Selection to the LISFA ensemble is a highly competitive process based on superior scores at the annual New York State School Music Association solo festivals and school music teacher recommendations.

The district extends its congratulations to the following student-musicians:

Suffolk Elementary Festival Participants (grades 5-7):

Sofia Aguilar, Viola – JFK
Gabriel Greengold, Viola – Forest Avenue
Gianna Haines, Violin – Santapogue
Emma Blloshmi, Violin – South Bay
Lucas Greengold, Viola – Junior High School
Kaitlyn Russell, Violin – Junior High School

Suffolk Secondary Festival (grades 8-12):

Eric Froehlich, Bass – Senior High School
Brian Thompson, Violin – Senior High School

News from the WB ALUMNI FOUNDATION

Hall of Fame

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation encourages the community to sponsor graduates who have made significant contributions to their profession or society, or non-graduates who have made contributions for the betterment of the district and community, for induction into the Hall of Fame. Applications may be submitted through July 17, 2015 and are available at the West Babylon Administration Office or by logging onto the foundation's website at www.westbabylonalumni.org. In November, a dinner honoring 2015 Hall of Fame

inductees will be held at the Irish Coffee Pub in East Islip. The proceeds from the dinner will be used for student scholarships and grants.

Alumni Scholarship Applications

On March 10, 2015, alumni scholarship applications became available in the Senior High School Guidance Office, on the district website and on the Alumni Foundation's website, www.westbabylonalumni.org. Due to the success of our fundraisers and the generosity of many donors, we are able to award numerous scholarships to graduating seniors.



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