



SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# DIGEST

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

SPRING 2017

## EAST SENIOR NAMED Regeneron Finalist

High School East senior Emily Anne Peterson has been named a finalist in the Regeneron Science Talent Search program. Emily was one of only 40 student finalists invited to Washington, D.C., where they participated in final judging, displayed their work to the public, met with notable scientists, and competed for awards, including the top award of \$250,000. Although Emily did not take home one of the top 10 prizes, she was one of just three finalists from Long Island.

“This is a well-deserved honor for Emily Peterson, and we couldn’t be more proud of this amazing accomplishment,” said High School East Principal Dr. Kevin Simmons. “Emily’s quiet and unassuming demeanor masks the brilliance of a seasoned researcher who is well beyond her years. Her success has been realized due to her steadfast approach, insatiable work ethic and unparalleled inquisitiveness.”

Emily’s project is “Lecithin-

Retinol Acyl Transferase in Squamous Cell Carcinoma: The Relationship Between Oncology and Wound Repair.” Squamous cell carcinoma, a type of skin cancer, is lacking in the expression of Lecithin-Retinol Acyl Transferase, a protein involved in both wound healing and cancer. She explored the role of LRAT in both wound healing and cancer progression by completing tissue culture, skin sheet formation, and analysis of the

regulation of the genes involved with invasion, intercellular cohesion, and coagulation. Additionally, she explored the genetic sequence homologies of LRAT to other proteins of interest utilizing computer coding. Emily worked with Dr. Marcia Simon at Stony Brook University.

*“Emily’s quiet and unassuming demeanor masks the brilliance of a seasoned researcher who is well beyond her years. Her success has been realized due to her steadfast approach, insatiable work ethic and unparalleled inquisitiveness.”*

Under the direction of High School East research coordinator Maria Zeitlin, Emily submitted her research for recognition. “I am so proud that Emily has been selected as a Regeneron finalist,” Zeitlin said. “She has an intuitive sense for scientific investigation and a tremendous work ethic. Her selection does not surprise me as she has demonstrated keen insight into the mechanisms of wound repair and skin cancer cell mechanics.”





# THE DIGITAL AGE: A New Way of Learning

More than just computers, hands-on technology initiatives have changed the way students of today learn. They are being educated in media arts, robotics, how to write code and are taking digital learning outside of the classroom.

This school year, Project Lead the Way has given students the opportunity to work in basic robotics. In grades three and four, students throughout the district are learning essential design structures using VEX robotic kits. After being introduced to simple machines and how to use specific parts such as beams, gears and connectors, students work on creating advanced objects in fifth grade, where activities are presented that culminate with them building a robotic vehicle to solve a real-world problem. Along the way, they collaborate to design, revise and construct the robotic vehicle. To help facilitate the building process, the students use an iPad app that details how to combine the VEX

construction pieces with the associated motors to make the vehicle move. Once completed, they practice moving the vehicle with a controller and apply their skills to solving the given problem.

In December, many of the elementary schools participated in Computer Science Education Week's Hour of Code, where they spent one hour learning the fundamentals of computer programming. Elementary students were engaged, excited and eager to take their education into their own hands by learning 21st century skills.

Starting at the elementary level and leading up to the high school, technology clubs help to pique interest in technical processes and methods. At Accomsett Elementary, students not only take part in one of these clubs, but they learn how the technology works. The TECHKNOW Kids Team, made up of 45 fifth-graders, is a new club that gives students the opportunity



to explore the more technical side of technology. They are taught how to operate, troubleshoot, and maintain the many devices the Smithtown Central School District has to offer. Working as a team, the TECHKNOW Kids actively support the technology needs of the school's faculty and students.

Breaking from traditional classroom learning, middle school students are using Breakout EDU, an educational toolkit based on the current escape room trend. Working in groups, they use critical thinking, collaboration and creativity to try to solve clues to unlock a box. Students must solve physical and online puzzles in an effort to unlock the box successfully. Using their iPads, the students scan QR codes to locate online clues. As an added challenge, a few of the clues may be written in invisible ink on documents.







# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN ACTION

In its continuing effort to educate the whole child, the district's clubs, community service and wellness activities challenge students to become more well-rounded individuals.

At Dogwood Elementary School, students engage in various practices throughout the school day to help keep them connected and focused. Some classroom teachers hold morning meetings to lay the groundwork and keep the class centered on the day's activities. Other teachers engage in breathing exercises before testing or to calm the class. The Dogwood Yoga Club teaches students flexibility, mindfulness and relaxation techniques to help connect the mind and body.

Each year, Mills Pond Elementary School spends an entire day engaged in peaceful activities. Students are involved in mindful actions, such as various yoga poses, breathing exercises, peaceful songs and relaxation techniques – each of which are aligned with the district's focus on social-emotional learning. Mills Pond also highlights the good deeds of its students with a "Growing Kindness Tree" wall, where leaves display kindness acts.

Kindness boards are proudly displayed in schools throughout the district, helping to spread messages of positivity and cultivate a culture of respect and caring. Mt. Pleasant Elementary's kindness board not only spreads kindness, but also teaches students about the impact of the words they choose. Students were asked to write kind words

about each of their classmates, which helped build self-esteem and a sense of community in the classroom.

Tackan Elementary students recently signed pledges to be a "No Place for Hate" school, an initiative sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League to promote kindness, acceptance and diversity. Students also created puzzle pieces to create an entire Tackan puzzle. Each piece shows how diverse they are and how they all come together to form one larger community.

Great Hollow student-athletes participate in annual Coaches vs. Cancer events to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. This year, Accomsett Middle School held a Cool to Be Kind week filled with five days of kindness activities. Sixth-graders created "These Little Notes" to be delivered to teens and adolescents recovering from depression in their community. Nesaquake Middle School participated in National Random Acts of Kindness Day on Feb. 17 by spreading notes of positivity around the school. Nesaquake also recognizes its students each month who are "Caught Being Kind."

Prior to Valentine's Day, the High School West junior varsity girls basketball team crafted more than 70 special valentine cards for children at Stony Brook Children's Hospital. In late February, High School East's Leaders Club visited Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism School to spend the day working with the students.





# STUDENT-ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

The district celebrated the commitments of 31 student-athletes to play at the collegiate level with Letter of Intent signings on Feb. 1 at high schools East and West.

Patrick Smith, coordinator of physical education, health, athletics and nurses, commended both the students and their parents for their hard work and dedication in reaching this milestone.

“Without the effort put forth by these student-athletes in both their academic careers and on the playing fields, along with the support of their parents, they would not be standing here today preparing for the next phase of their journeys,” he said.



## *Congratulations to the following students who signed with Division I schools:*

### *High School West:*

- Cameron Brunsvold:** Lindenwood University (*lacrosse*)  
**James Caddigan:** Colgate University (*lacrosse*)  
**Jessica English:** University of Vermont (*lacrosse*)  
**Ryan Erler:** Stony Brook University (*lacrosse*)  
**Hunter Greco:** Binghamton University (*lacrosse*)  
**Sarah Harrington:** Davidson College (*soccer*)  
**Gabrielle Horman:** Quinnipiac University (*volleyball*)  
**Kayla Kosubinsky:** University of Tampa (*lacrosse*)  
**Nicholas Trabacchi:** University of Maryland, Baltimore County (*baseball*)  
**Amy Tracy:** Florida Southern College (*lacrosse*)  
**Chelsea Witteck:** Columbia University (*lacrosse*)

### *High School East:*

- Haley Anderson:** Quinnipiac University (*volleyball*)  
**Sean Barry:** Towson University (*lacrosse*)  
**Robert Burns:** Pennsylvania State University (*lacrosse*)  
**Daniel Claxton:** University of Connecticut (*track*)  
**Lauren Cuoto:** Marist College (*soccer*)  
**Steven Cuccurullo:** Harvard University (*lacrosse*)  
**Connor DeSimone:** Johns Hopkins University (*lacrosse*)  
**Victoria DiPresso:** Pace University (*lacrosse*)  
**Jaclyn Gallery:** University of Connecticut (*cross-county/track*)  
**Luke Eschbach:** Yale University (*lacrosse*)  
**Brian Herber:** Hofstra University (*lacrosse*)  
**Shannon Kavanagh:** University of Florida (*lacrosse*)  
**Michael Latini:** Fairfield University (*lacrosse*)  
**Michael Marino:** Binghamton University (*lacrosse*)  
**Conor Rowan:** U.S. Coast Guard (*lacrosse*)  
**Michael Ruggeriero:** Wagner College (*baseball*)  
**Kate Schmal:** Bentley University (*lacrosse*)  
**Julia Smith:** University of Massachusetts (*lacrosse*)  
**Sydney Strcich:** Bucknell University (*lacrosse*)  
**Anthony Voelker:** Fairfield University (*lacrosse*)

## Student-Artists Honored with NATIONAL AWARDS



**Scholastic  
Art & Writing  
Awards**

Twelve Advanced Placement art students from high schools East and West have earned a total of 23 honors in the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition. Of those 23 awards, 10 were Gold Key awards, which will be considered for national recognition. Gold Key winners will be announced in March.

The district congratulates the following student-artists:

### HIGH SCHOOL EAST

- Luke Gelfman – one Gold Key in Design, three Gold Keys in Drawing and Illustration, one Silver Key in Drawing and Illustration
- Anna Koke – one Gold Key in Printmaking
- Danielle Napoli – two Gold Keys in Printmaking, one Honorable Mention in Photography
- Kelsey Opinante – one Silver Key in Comic Art
- Stephanie Rowe – one Silver Key in Comic Art
- Ilysa Sirota – one Honorable Mention in Mixed Media
- Jamie Werner – one Gold Key in Fashion

### HIGH SCHOOL WEST

- Sean Bishop – one Gold Key in Drawing and Illustration
- Lisa Accolla – one Silver Key in Drawing and Illustration
- Katie Kguloian – two Honorable Mentions in Drawing and Illustration
- Stephen Kyranakis – one Honorable Mention in Drawing and Illustration
- Laura Minet – three Honorable Mentions in Drawing and Illustration, one Silver Key in Drawing and Illustration, one Gold Key Art Portfolio

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards' mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their work to the world. Students across America submitted nearly 320,000 original works during the 2016 program year. Students in grades 7–12 can apply in 29 categories of art and writing for their chance to earn scholarships and have their works exhibited and published.

## DRAMATIC PRODUCTIONS *in Music*

Early this school year, High School East's Drama Club wrapped its production of "The Wizard of Oz." The cast performed from Nov. 3-5, with a special senior citizen matinee on Nov. 2. In addition, the club hosted a day performance for fifth-graders at Tackan, St. James, Dogwood and Mills Pond elementary schools.

In early March, High School West presented its play, "Once Upon a Mattress." The cast performed from March 2-3, with a special senior citizen matinee on March 1.

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS: ALYSON CRONIN *and* TRISH GALLERY

English Language Arts coaches Alyson Cronin and Trish Gallery have been working together to provide a uniform level of training to all of the district's elementary teachers. Their combined efforts have helped enhance ELA instruction by planning, modeling, and co-teaching engaging lessons and activities with colleagues and their students.

Some of the tools used in teacher training include:

- *K-1 Interactive Writing vs. Writer's Notebook*
- *K-2 Foundations Training – Implementing and Managing your Foundations Year*
- *Foundations New Teacher Training*
- *Grades 2-6 Process vs. Product Writing Training*
- *Grades 2-5 Art of Revision Presentation*
- *Grade 6 Training Planning and Executing Powerful Learning Stations Presentation*

In the classroom, the two coaches have implemented author/illustration studies, animal research projects, used graffiti walls to capture learning and Google Classroom to inspire and motivate students. They have employed lessons from “The Reading Strategies Book” by Jennifer Serravallo and used revision stations to enhance student writing.

Ms. Cronin, who coaches kindergarten, first and fourth grade, worked collaboratively with fourth-grade teachers to adapt New York State's curriculum module focusing on poetry using Sharon Creech's “Love that Dog.” Ms. Gallery, who works with grades two, three and five, is currently working with fifth-grade teachers to provide an adapted module focusing on “Rules to Live By” and memoir writing.

Both coaches partnered with district consultant Sarah Cordova to create process-writing units for each text type in grades K-5.

Ms. Gallery and Ms. Cronin also participate in regional and statewide collaboration. Ms. Cronin presented at the Fall DEI Literacy Conference on Integrating Google Classroom with ELA Instruction. Ms. Gallery, along with other Smithtown teachers, participated in a BOCES Regional Assessment Workshop to design a Grade 2 ELA Assessment. She also took part in a NYS Item Writer Workshop to construct items for the NYS ELA Assessment for 2018. Recently, she traveled to Albany to participate in a Final Eyes Committee to evaluate the 2016 NYS Grade 5 Assessment.

## ASBESTOS UPDATE

The District's ongoing asbestos program complies with the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act and has resulted in the following asbestos abatement projects since our last report:

- *Districtwide operation and maintenance floor tile replacement.*
- *HS East Main Office complex and Classroom Number 210 floor tiles.*
- *St. James Elementary Main Office floor tiles.*
- *Smithtown Elementary Main Office and Health Office floor tiles.*

The District has completed its triannual survey of all

the buildings and continues its semiannual surveillance requirements under the regulations of AHERA. This, combined with the District's ongoing maintenance program, has produced a list of operation and maintenance repairs on a districtwide basis. A summary of these repairs is included in each building's management plan.

Any individual may review a building's management plan by going to the school's main office and requesting it. Copies of all the schools' management plans are available for review at the District's central offices at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown.

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

SMITHTOWN POSTAL CARRIER

# IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

## Where to Vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2017

### ELECTION DISTRICT No. 1

West of Hauppauge Road (Route 111), south of Jericho Turnpike, and west of Fifty-Acre Road South and Fifty-Acre Road, north of Jericho Turnpike, west to the boundaries of District No. 4.

#### VOTE AT:

Smithtown Elementary School, located at 51 Lawrence Avenue in Smithtown (Gymnasium).

### ELECTION DISTRICT No. 2

East of Fifty-Acre Road South and Fifty-Acre Road, north of Jericho Turnpike.

#### VOTE AT:

St. James Elementary School, located at 580 Lake Avenue in St. James (Gymnasium).

*You can also check your voting district by using the "Voter Location Tool" on the district's website at [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us)*

*\*Please note that although Nesconset Elementary is not being used as a school, the building will still be used as a polling place.*

### ELECTION DISTRICT No. 3

East of Hauppauge Road and south of Jericho Turnpike.

#### VOTE AT:

\*Nesconset Elementary School, located at 29 Gibbs Pond Road in Nesconset (Gymnasium).

### ELECTION DISTRICT No. 4

West of the Long Island Railroad and north of Jericho Turnpike and Creek Road.

#### VOTE AT:

Accompsett Elementary School, located at 1 Lincoln Street in Smithtown (Gymnasium).

## Are *You* **Vote?** Registered to

Only registered voters can participate in the budget vote and Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. If you have not voted in any political or school district vote within the past four years, you will need to register. Residents vote at the elementary school in their election district. If you meet the following requirements, you are eligible to vote:

- 18 years of age or older
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and
- A registered voter (with the Suffolk County Board of Elections)

You may download a voter registration form from the district website at [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us), however, you must return the completed form in person to the district's central office at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown during regular business hours from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the District Clerk's office at 631-382-2012 for further information.

**The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, May 9, 2017.**

## Application for Absentee Ballot

To obtain an absentee ballot, a person must be a qualified and registered voter of the Smithtown Central School District on the date of the election.

The person seeking the absentee ballot must be approved by the district clerk and/or the board of registration by filing an application with the district clerk. Applications are available at the District's central office at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown or on the District website at [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us).

The application must be received by

the district clerk at least seven days before the election if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, which for this election will be Tuesday, May 9, 2017 or the day before the election if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the voter, which will be Monday, May 15, 2017.

Questions concerning the application procedure for absentee ballots should be directed to the office of the District Clerk, 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787 or by calling 631-382-2012.

## SCHOOL COMMUNITY DIGEST

Published by the Smithtown Central School District

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Christopher Alcure, President  
Joanne McEnroy, Vice President  
Gladys M. Waldron  
Grace Plourde  
Jeremy Thode  
Daniel Lynch  
Michael Saidens

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. James Grossane

### DISTRICT CLERK

Maureen O'Connor

26 New York Avenue, Unit 1  
Smithtown, New York 11787



Smithtown Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of handicaps or on the basis of sex, race, or ethnic background in the educational programs or activities which it operates.