

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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*Superintendent's
Message*



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MARCH 2024



SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the beginning of the Spring Season. Evidence that “spring has sprung” is all around us. The days are warmer, the grass is green, the trees are blossoming and everything seems to have new life. Spring is a time of renewed hope and excitement and we share in this joy as we hit the home stretch of another school year.

Spring is always an exciting part of the school year. School based activities and athletics begin to take place outdoors, allowing everyone the chance to enjoy the nicer weather. Our schools all host a wide variety of activities and events that serve to both educate our students and strengthen the school community. Please be sure to monitor the website and calendars at your child’s school for information on these events. We hope to see you in the weeks and months ahead.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition!

Sincerely,
Dr. Secaur



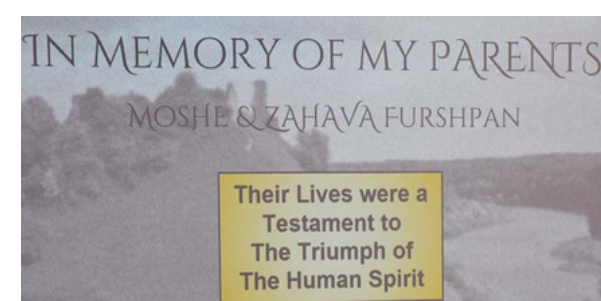
CURRICULUM CORNER

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AT HSW AND HSE

Smithtown High School East and West students recently received wise advice during a visit from Dr. Bernie Furshpan, the son of two Holocaust survivors.

He reminded them that...“You can make a difference for the next generation.” Dr. Furshpan is an educator at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove. During his visit, he spoke to many students and held a Q & A on the Holocaust.

“There’s always hatred but let’s stop this nonsense,” Dr. Furshpan told the students. “Let’s grow as a society.”

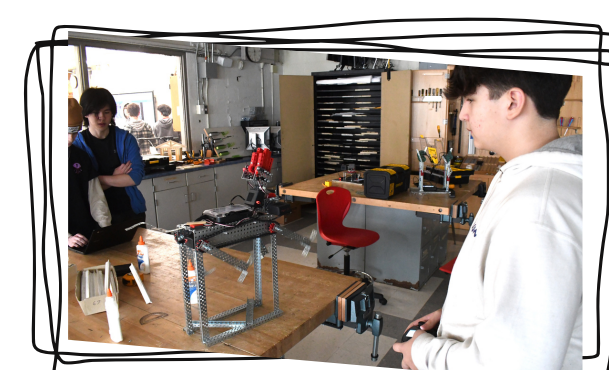
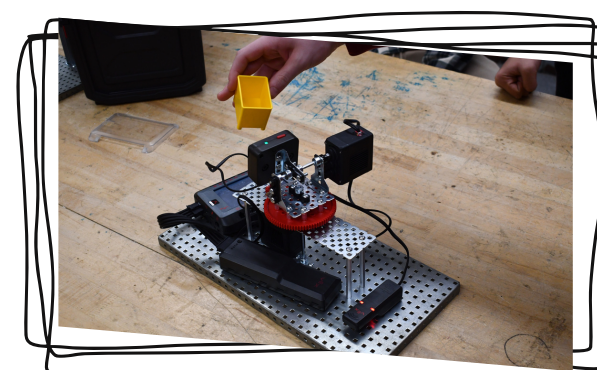
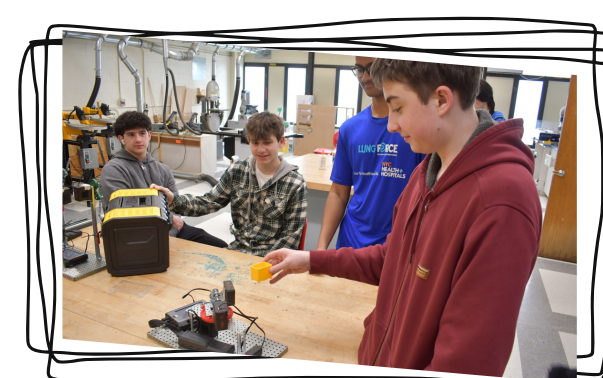


PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

Students in Mr. Savage's PLTW Principles of Engineering class at High School East were tasked to design, build, and program a robot that mimics an animal's behavior or characteristics.

The designs included an owl tracking its prey, coyote's jaws and neck movement but only at "night" and a hawk's ability to keep its head straight while its body moves.

Biomimicry engineering is the practice of creating designs based on structures and sequences from the Earth's natural world, including its plants, animals, and geographies. Many industries benefit from the principles of biomimicry engineering, including architecture, automotive, healthcare, and conservation.



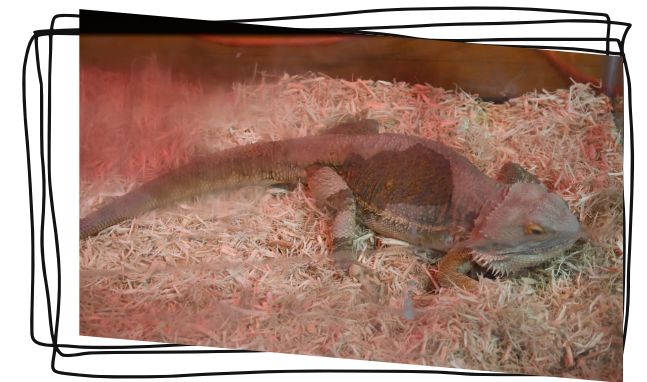
CURRICULUM CORNER

AROUND THE AT MTP

Second graders at Mt. Pleasant Elementary received a larger than life education, thanks to a 19-ft inflatable globe! Courtesy of Western Suffolk BOCES, Ms. Erin Kelly educated students on geography and habit around the world!

From introducing a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, to a bearded dragon native of Australia, students had an interactive and informative opportunity to learn.

This event was made possible through the generosity of the Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA Arts in Education Program.



DECA STUDENTS SHINE AT STATES

Ninety students from Smithtown East and West DECA competed in the New York DECA State Competition this year in Rochester, New York.

In total, our students received 75 medals and trophies, and 11 students qualified in their competition to attend the International Career Conference in Anaheim, CA where they will compete against all the top winners from across the globe.

As always, a special thank you to CTE Director Christine LoFrese and DECA Co-Advisors Patrick Rosa, Maeve Miller, and Eric Milburn for all of their work and expertise!

DECA AT STATES!



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

WILSON TECH HONORS! 🙌

A round of applause for several Smithtown High School students who attend programs at Wilson Tech and recently came home with high honors!

SkillsUSA is a national, student-led partnership of education and industry leaders committed to empowering career and technical education students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members.

Recently, our students who attend programs at Wilson Tech competed against their Long Island peers and placed in the top three in their respective SkillsUSA contests.

For a list of honorees, click [HERE](#)



PICTURE PERFECT PORTRAIT!

AP art student Michael Struzinski's talents in the style of photorealism, using graphite pencils and charcoal, has led to his artwork being selected for the second year in a row to the Heckscher Museum's Long Island's Best 2024 student exhibit!

Michael's piece was one of the 87 chosen out of 456 works from students' submissions across Suffolk and Nassau Counties, and it will be on display from March 23 - May 5.

Michael's work was inspired by one of the pieces currently exhibited in the museum and his history teacher, Jennifer Keller. "She was one of my favorite teachers. As a sophomore, after each unit she would allow us to do something creative. She would hang my work up on the board. It was a huge confidence boost. I also promised her I'd make her a portrait."

Joining Michael for a picture was High School West teacher, Lauren George, and SCSD Director of Fine Arts, Michael Mastrangelo.



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

STARS IN SCIENCE!

The Science Olympiad team at Great Hollow Middle School made quite the impression at the recent Science Olympiads, held at Murphy Junior High School.

The students earned several medals, helping Great Hollow rank 8th out of 20 schools represented.

Impressive!



ALL-STATE PERFORMANCE

High School West student Ethan Benstock recently performed with the NYSSMA All-State Jazz Ensemble for New York State legislators in Albany.



PIANO PERFECTION!

A round of applause to Mt. Pleasant Elementary second grade student, Gabriella Stanco, who will be playing at Carnegie Hall next month!

Gabriella won the silver award for her submission and was chosen out of more than 500 nominees to play at the Golden Key Music Festival.

Click [HERE](#) to watch Gabriella play!



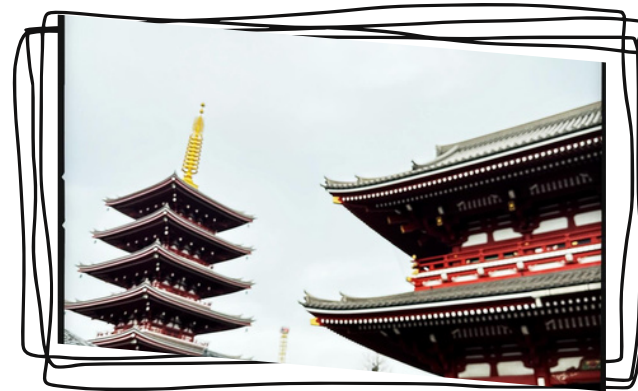
COMMUNITY NEWS

SMITHTOWN BULLS IN JAPAN!

The Smithtown Central School District's first educational trip to Japan took place during February's winter break with an amazing exploration of Tokyo, Yokohama, Hiroshima and Osaka.

Teachers Nancy Raftery, Tim Needles, Nancy Anderson, Michael Menendez, Amy Rothleder and Robin Jacobsen helped lead students from High school East and West on an EF (Education First) tour with tour guide Yu-san through the history and culture of Japan.

Students and teachers toured sites such as the Meiji Shinto Shrine, Yokohama Sky Garden, Asakusa Kannon Temple, Miyajima Island's Itsukushima shrine, Osaka Castle, and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.



RELAY FOR LIFE HITS THE COURT!

Students and faculty at High School West hooped it up for a great cause this month!

The Relay For Life team came up the idea of a student versus faculty basketball game, and together more than \$700 was raised and will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Great idea!



TACKAN PTA SHOOTS AND SCORES! 🏒

The Tackan Elementary School PTA raised nearly \$700.00 at their recent fundraiser at UBS Arena.

Over 120 members of the Tackan community came out to cheer on the NY Islanders as they played against the Calgary Flames. The money raised will go towards the school Arts in Education programs.



COMMUNITY NEWS

MUY EXCELENTE!

Students from Profesora Bermudez's and Profesora Tiburcio's Spanish 5 classes recently enjoyed a trip to Manhattan to watch the longest-running off-Broadway Spanish language play in New York City at El Repertorio Español.

La Gringa is a play about a young woman born in NYC who travels to Puerto Rico for the first time to meet her family and to discover her roots. After the play, students enjoyed a delicious meal at El Parador Cafe, the oldest Mexican restaurant in NYC.



ON THE MOOV IN NYC

High School West alumnus, Kevin Camson and Dr. Secaur were recently interviewed by FOX 5's Jodi Goldberg for a piece on Kevin's MOOV app!

The story highlighted Kevin's work to revolutionize how parents and students access school information and is being piloted by the SCSD.



FINDING A LOVE FOR WRITING

Third grade students at Dogwood Elementary recently met local author Darren Sardelli. Mr. Sardelli shared with students many of his poems instilling a love of reading and poetry!



SPORTS ZONE

SUPER AT STATES!!!

BEST OF WEST!

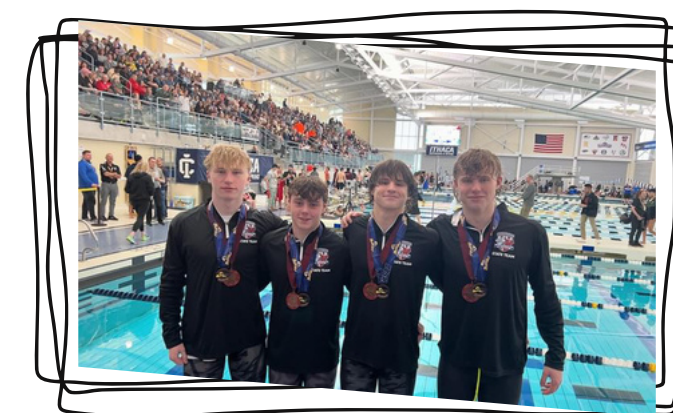
Laina Friedmann of High School West ran to a new school record in the 1000 meter run in 2:49.41, finishing 2nd at States! Laina's time ranked #6 in the country!

She later helped Suffolk County's Section XI team in the intersectional relay helping the team win the State Championship.



PRIDE OF THE POOL

Congratulations to Dylan Gallub, Alex Trzaskowski, Tyler Gallub, and Chris Sweeney on placing third at the State 200 freestyle relay race!



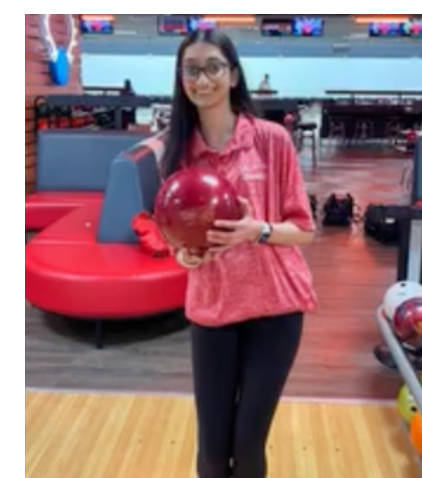
JUMPING FOR JOY

Braeden McCormick of High School East finished 5th overall at states in the high jump! Braden then placed 11th in the nation at the New Balance Track Nationals in Boston, clearing 6'5!



TERRIFIC TRISHNA!

High School East FRESHMAN Trishna Desai bowled over the competition and competed in the NYS bowling championships!



SPORTS ZONE

UNIFIED BOWLING!



A round of applause for our SCSD Unified bowling team!

Our team consists of students who are a part of our Functional Academic Secondary Transition program at High School West and general education students from both high schools (East and West).

The students bowl on this unified team to promote positive peer relationships and to build their love for the sport.



WHAT A TEAM!



BIG Shoutout to Bayla Goldberg and Amanda Burns for an outstanding showing at the State Gymnastics Championships!

These two helped lead Section XI to an overall 3rd place finish!



THE FUTURE IS NOW!



Nesaquake Middle School eighth grader Holden Stencil competed at the State Swimming Tournament and took home a medal! Holden was part of the Section XI 400 freestyle relay team which earned All-State status!



WHISPERETTES DO IT AGAIN!

The HS East Varsity Kickline (SEVK) have returned from the Contest of Champions in Orlando, FL as 25X National Champions!

The Whisperettes won the 'Small High Kick Championship' and also brought home a 3rd Place trophy for their Football Kick routine in the Small Open Category.

Congratulations to Head Coach Sarahbeth Cook and Assistant Coach Michele Marciante (both are SEVK alumni)!

