

BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WINTER 2022

Brentwood Board of Education Announces Superintendent Richard Loeschner Will Remain

Every ship needs a good captain, and every school district needs a good superintendent. Here in the Brentwood School District, we're happy to say we've got one of the best in Richard Loeschner, a wonderful educator and a truly loved member of the Brentwood community. It is for this reason that we are so excited to announce that Mr. Loeschner will continue as superintendent of the Brentwood School District.

All of us in the Brentwood Board of Education believe fully that our district is on a very clear trajectory toward continued success and innovation. The Board sees that the path toward our collective goals is to maintain a high-performing, exceptional cabinet and leadership. Mr. Loeschner is an integral part of this equation. Furthermore, the leadership and poise that Mr. Loeschner displayed during the ongoing COVID crisis—perhaps the most challenging two years our district, or any district, ever had to endure—was remarkable.



From left to right top row: Ann Palmer, Stacy O'Connor, Maria Gonzalez-Prescod, Robert Feliciano, Richard Loeschner, Rhonda Young, Simone Holder-Daniel, Wanda Ortiz-Rivera
From left to right bottom row: Paula Moore, Cindy Ciferri, Julie Burgos, Eileen Felix.

The Board is steadfast in our desire to extend Richard Loeschner's tenure, through June 2024, as the Brentwood School District's superintendent. The goals of the Brentwood Board of Education and the central administration are fully aligned: We want to provide our students nothing less than the gold standard for public education on Long Island. Working together, we are confident we will achieve anything we put our minds to.

To the Community: Thank You

All of us in the Brentwood School District administration and on the Board of Education have known all too well how challenging the last few months have been. The community has truly been our partner, and through your grace, toughness and resolve, Brentwood has come through. Our students continue to excel and our athletes, artists and musicians continue to amaze. Thank you so much for your partnership during this time. We truly appreciate you.

Robert Feliciano
Board of Education President

Richard Loeschner
Superintendent

This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Robert Feliciano, *President*
G. Paula Moore, *1st Vice President*
Maria Gonzalez-Prescod, *2nd Vice President*
Julia Burgos, *Trustee*
Cynthia Ciferri, *Trustee*
Eileen Felix, *Trustee*
Simone Holder-Daniel, *Trustee*
Kathy Hoey, *District Clerk*
Richard Loeschner, *Superintendent of Schools*

BRENTWOOD'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST

FULL "STEM" AHEAD

Brentwood High School Research Team Awarded Prestigious Grant from Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Program

The creative minds of Brentwood High School's research team work incredibly hard on their craft, and it's so wonderful to see the team's hours of research and work truly pay off. The team recently received an impressive \$10,000 grant from the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam program for the Brentwood team's invention, Marsh M.U.S.C.L.E. The students merged computer science technology with coding to bring this cutting-edge design to life.

The Marsh M.U.S.C.L.E. team is composed of ten students: Nicole Olekanma, Rachel Jean Charles, Minnahil Tariq, Joel Perez, Jonathan Tavarez, Javed Chowdhury, Raja Deonanan, Kevin Leal, David Ramirez, and Ever Hernandez—nine juniors and one senior. As a prerequisite for joining the research team, all students are enrolled in the district's Science Research program. Over the summer leading into the current school year, the team worked to see to it that they had a competitive proposal for submission to the Lemelson-MIT program. Throughout the summer months, the students connected with various partners—including the Stony Brook University Department of Ecology and Evolution, and the BIOBUS, a mobile STEM lab that operates in New York City. As part of their proposal, the research team met with BIOBUS co-founder Sarah Weisberg to discuss the roll-out and use of the invention on the BIOBUS for other Brentwood and New York City students to have access to.



In order to meet their immediate and long-term goals, the members of the research team meet daily and after school to ensure they maintain their high-quality work. The receipt of the \$10,000 grant by some of Brentwood High School's brightest academic minds highlights the importance of STEM education and aligns with the district's goal to provide its students with top-notch STEM instruction. This accomplishment truly reiterates that Brentwood students are, and continue to be, the next generation of scientists and STEM-minded individuals.

BRENTWOOD'S DYNAMIC DUO MAKES MAJOR SCIENTIFIC STRIDES



The best things come in pairs! Take, for example, Roberto and Ricardo Lopez, twin seniors at Brentwood High School. Recently, the two young men were recognized for their individual contributions to the science community and were named Regeneron semifinalists. Ricardo and Roberto are exceptional, well-rounded students, and their hard work, determination and dedication have afforded them high standing in their graduating class. Roberto is currently ranked number two in his class and is on track to be Brentwood High School's salutatorian with a GPA of 104.56. Ricardo is ranked number six with another impressive GPA of 102.5. Congrats to Roberto and Ricardo for making our district proud!

STUNNING, STUDENT-MADE MURAL CROSSING BORDERS BEAUTIFIES BRENTWOOD

Last fall, Brentwood administrators, teachers, families, and students came together for a ribbon cutting at the site of the student-created mural called *Crossing Borders*. The mural was created as part of a larger initiative facilitated by Long Island Latino Teachers Association (LILTA) to beautify Brentwood's downtown and celebrate Latin heritage.

The three Brentwood students were selected by performing and fine arts coordinator, Angel Perez. The students partnered with students from Central-Islip to create the stunning mural that depicts the immigration journey of a mother and her daughter. The mural took three weeks to complete and was done under the guidance of muralist, Segundo Orellana. The project was spearheaded by the Long Island Latino Teachers Association and funded by Suffolk County to honor the Latin heritage of Brentwood, provide Latin students with the platform to showcase their artistic abilities and contribute to the beautification of a proud community.

"The Brentwood School District and community is culturally rich and diverse, and we are proud to celebrate that diversity inside



and outside the classrooms with lessons and extracurriculars curated for our students," said Richard Loeschner, Superintendent of Schools. "The *Crossing Borders* mural will be proudly displayed for the community to enjoy and will serve as a reminder of the beautiful Latin culture that exists in our community. Well done to our talented students on creating this masterpiece!"

A RAVE REVIEW

Brentwood High School Participates In Documentary Celebrating the Arts

Brentwood High School students Sofia Alvarez, Sophia Seda and Edgar Romero, who graduated with the class of 2021, were featured performers in this year's Islip Town Council Teenys Revisited 2021 documentary which celebrates the power of the arts and the need for creative outlets during the pandemic.

This year's film was not only a celebration of the arts, but it also served as a visual testament to the resilience of young students as they navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and their education.



Brentwood High School is no stranger to the Islip Town Council Teenys program. For the past eight years, the district has participated in this opportunity to showcase the talents and work of the performing arts program and its students. In order to keep the arts thriving in the halls of Brentwood High School during the 2020 academic year and beyond, the Drama Club met virtually and then on a hybrid schedule when possible so that club members could continue to collaborate and refine their skills amongst their peers. The Drama Club also participated in the virtual Stage the Change Conference wherein students prepared monologues and took part in choreography units after school.

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

NEW PERSONAL DICTIONARIES ARRIVE AT HEMLOCK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hemlock Park Elementary School would like to send a special thank you to its Rotary Club for sending its students their own dictionaries! Perhaps we'll soon see an assembly of verbose wordsmiths at Hemlock. Thanks to the Rotary Club!



CHILDREN'S WRITER BETH ANDERSON VISITS LAUREL PARK ELEMENTARY

Students at Laurel Park Elementary School were treated recently to an amazing visit from children's author Beth Anderson, writer of books such as Tad Lincoln's Restless Wriggle and The Inconvenient Alphabet.



Ms. Anderson provided insight on her research, editing and revision strategies—the students were shocked when she said that her books can go through 30-100 revisions prior to publication! We aim to foster a love of reading and writing at Laurel Park, and Beth Anderson's visit surely did just that.

LORETTA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEARNS ABOUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN PIONEER IN VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Black History Month, held every February, is a crucial part of our school's history curriculum.



Recently, Loretta Park Elementary School students celebrated the month by taking a virtual museum trip with the Long Island Museum to learn about Elizabeth Jennings Graham. Ms. Graham was an African-American teacher and civil rights pioneer who, in 1854, was instrumental in desegregating New York City streetcars. It was a powerful lesson and an important reminder of how far we've come.

NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIFTH GRADERS FORM INCREDIBLE BONDS AT AFTER-SCHOOL RETREAT

At North Elementary School, we've felt, this year more so than ever, the significant need for students and staff to have opportunities to connect and relate, particularly in the fifth grade. To that end, we came



together as a team of administrators, pupil personnel staff, and teachers to create an after-school retreat where fifth grade students were able to spend time doing meaningful work to reflect, share, and connect. The outcome of our collaborative efforts was felt by all who were in the room. We listened to and watched 10-year-olds cheer one another on, chant each other's names, and reach out to the hearts of their peers. One student stood in front of a room full of her classmates and said that she wishes the energy they were feeling in that moment could be with them in school each day. It was truly a magical evening!

IN THIS OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM, IT'S ALL ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

What words would you use to describe those close to you? Well, if you've formed connections as strong as the ones among the children in Soraya Bravo's bilingual class at



Oak Park Elementary School, you'd probably use words like "amazing", "kind" and "smart." Those are just some of the positive adjectives students in Ms. Bravo's class selected in a recent project that tasked them with creating posters out of the words they'd use to describe their classmates. It was a touching display of friendship and kindness—at a time when we could all use a little more of both.

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

PINE PARK CELEBRATES 100 DAYS

Even a single day at school is a blessing for all students—100 days of learning at Pine Park Elementary School is truly something special! Students and teachers recently commemorated 100 days of learning at the school, a milestone of education for our youngest Brentwood scholars! Congratulations, Pine Park; we can't wait to see what you accomplish in the next 100 days.



FRANK J. CANNON SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SENDS VALENTINES TO VETERANS

At Southeast Elementary School, our students know that anything we can do for the brave men and women who have served our country is time well spent. That's why we were so excited to take part in a special Valentine's Day project that saw our young students create and send heartwarming Valentines to our veterans. Suffolk County Legislator Sam Gonzalez and Brian Scott, legislative aide, even visited the school to collect the Valentine's Day cards!



COMING TOGETHER—AND GIVING BACK—OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Last Thanksgiving, Southwest Elementary School indulged in a delicious meal, which students helped prepare, and learned some important life skills along the way! During the festivities, Brentwood Board of Education First Vice President Paula Moore and Second Vice President Maria Gonzalez-Prencod visited the young students. Also present was our Special Education team, which worked with the school's teachers and staff to plan and provide the nourishing meal.



ADULT EDUCATION IN FOCUS AT TWIN PINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Brentwood School District has always innately understood the need to ensure district parents have a firm grasp of their children's educational needs. A recent example of such was our Annual Saturday Academy, which was held in December at Twin Pines Elementary School. Workshops included informational sessions to equip parents with the tools needed to assist their children with homework, internet best practices, and how to create nutritious, delicious meals to give students the food their brains need to work to their utmost potential.



DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT CREATES 'HOLIDAY OF HOPE'

North Middle School's Alexander Archila may look like your average sixth grader, but he's anything but. Alex is a walking and talking source of inspiration. As the holidays approached, he wasn't interested in celebrating a particular holiday; he wanted to create one of his own. His holiday was based on the truth that all students are cared for and loved. Most importantly, he didn't want anyone to feel as if hope was lost. This idea resonated with staff and Alex's **Holiday of Hope** bulletin board was crafted in our front lobby. It was a start, but Alex wanted more. December 15th became **Alex's Day of Hope** at North Middle School. That day, the students and staff donned yellow and green to represent hope. Alex handed out kindness stickers to his peers, staff members distributed compliment cards to students and colleagues, and in ELA classrooms students took time to write their hopes. That afternoon, Alex worked after school to post those student hopes to his special bulletin board, adding an exclamation mark to his initiative's success.



BRENTWOOD'S WRESTLING TEAM IS SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPS

Congratulations to Brentwood's boys wrestling team for clinching a major win! Our wrestling team recently earned the title of Suffolk County Champion, and all of us in the district could not be prouder of its accomplishment. These young men are superstars on and off the mat, and this victory was hard-earned and well deserved. Let's hear it for our boys wrestling team! May you keep accomplishing incredible things.

ARTS NEWS

Incredible Student Artwork on Virtual Display for All to Enjoy

We've seen firsthand the immense talent of Brentwood art students for years, but unless you're a family member or still live nearby, you may not have a chance to experience the beautiful works of art our students are creating. Fortunately, we've launched a virtual art gallery so that all can enjoy the talents of Brentwood students. The work displayed represents the most artistically inclined students from kindergarten to fifth grade. Below is just a smattering of incredible work, but you can see all the works by visiting Brentwood's Facebook page and scrolling down to January 26, or if you are reading this digitally, by clicking <https://express.adobe.com/page/aKMHFUWUmTqfG/>



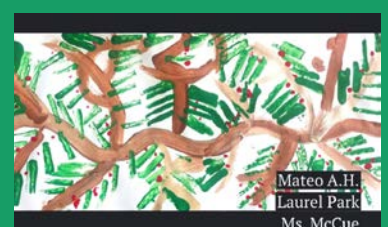
Kindergarten



First Grade



Second Grade



Third Grade



Fourth Grade



Fifth Grade