

BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUMMER 2021

Congratulations, Class of 2021



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

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Too Good for Violence

Brentwood's Fully Remote Elementary Students Facilitate Dialogue on Accountability and Reachable Goals

Fully remote second grade students at Southwest Elementary School in Brentwood have opened up a conversation aimed at dealing with difficult emotions and stopping senseless violence. Taking part in Too Good for Violence's *A Peaceable Place*—a universal, violence prevention and character education program—Southwest Elementary students are engaging in critical dialogue at the most important time.

Through myriad interactive activities, the second graders learned new strategies to improve their listening skills and acquire tools for handling anger and frustration. Spearheaded by Ms. Milagros De La Concha (and her puppet Wagner), the fully remote students collaborated virtually for a scavenger hunt to find classmates who respond to their emotions in a healthy way, use I-messages to help Wagner communicate assertively, and pinpoint strategies to reinforce their active listening skills. Along the way, students honed their social and anger management skills to understand one another better, resolve conflict peacefully and teach Wagner how to treat others with kindness. At the conclusion of the scavenger hunt, Brentwood's second grade students earned certificates of completion and participated in an activity to make their puppets.

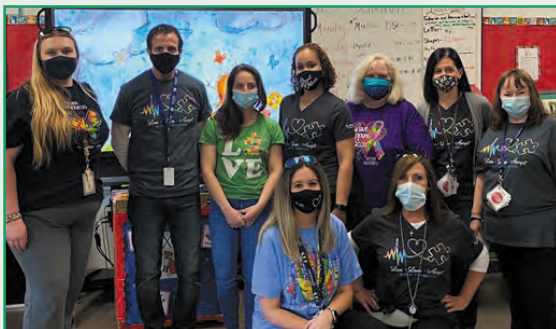


Second grade students at Southwest Elementary School, enrolled in fully remote instruction, participating in a character education program with district school counselor Ms. Milagros De La Concha and her puppet Wagner.



Brentwood School Counselor Ms. Milagros De La Concha facilitating remote instruction via Microsoft Office.

AT BRENTWOOD, ACCEPTANCE IS KEY



Autism Awareness Month is Observed Throughout April, Shining Light on Critical Issue

Throughout the month of April, our students and staff participated in several initiatives to commemorate Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. At West Middle School, special education teacher Casey Patton spearheaded a pizza party while students at Brentwood High School created large wooden puzzle pieces—with help from Ms. Gustafson, Ms. Vignona, and Mr. Coyne—to be displayed in the school courtyard. At Southwest and BHS, staff wore T-shirts to display their support.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP 10 ACADEMIC STUDENTS

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Annie Hsu	Edgar Campos
Ileen Villarreal	Jennifer Salvador
Daniel Cervantes	David Cervantes
Alan Merino	Carlos Sorto Reyes
Joselyn Perla	Esabell Henrius

SONDERLING HIGH SCHOOL

Nabihah Ahsan	Nathali Salmeron
Julia Spadaro	Amber Connell
Leena Alzafarani	Jason Vasquez
Ashley Alcantara	Victoria Vasquez
Javier Garcia	Katyushka Salvatierra

BRENTWOOD'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Highlighting the Amazing Accomplishments of Brentwood Students

Congratulations to our Valedictorians and Salutatorians

The Brentwood Union Free School District recently announced its valedictorians and salutatorians for Brentwood High School's Class of 2021. Congratulations to valedictorians Nabihah Ahsan and Annie Hsu, of Sonderling and Ross, respectively. And congratulations to both Brentwood salutatorians, Julia Spadaro of Sonderling and Ileen Villarreal of Ross.

"I am honored to recognize all of these distinguished students. Nabihah, Annie, Julia and Ileen epitomize what makes Brentwood great, and we are so incredibly proud of them," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Richard Loeschner. "All of our valedictorians and salutatorians represent what the district strives to instill in students through a well-rounded educational experience. Not only did they shine in a classroom setting, but outside of the classroom as well—setting an example for what it means to be an exceptional peer and community member."



"From teaching me about the importance of having a growth mindset to developing a mentality where I see my goals as missions, my teachers, particularly Mr. O'Neill and Dr. Grella, have helped shape me into the person I am today."

– Sonderling valedictorian
Nabihah Ahsan



"I have learned so much from all my teachers, particularly Ms. McNamara, who taught me so many important business and real-life lessons. She has given me helpful advice and has always been there for me whenever I have reached out to her with questions and concerns. I really appreciate her help."

– Ross valedictorian
Annie Hsu



"The district has provided me with various outlets to explore all of my possible interests from a very young age. Even in elementary school, I remember having opportunities to be involved in different programs, from Bucket fillers to a Little Red Riding Hood musical, which forced me to stay open minded about different interests and involved at

school Each and every teacher and staff member that I have interacted with throughout my education has been friendly, understanding, and dedicated to their position as a teacher and influencer in the lives of their students. The staff of the district and diverse opportunities available to me allowed me to feel prepared for the next steps of my life and education."

– Sonderling salutatorian
Julia Spadaro



"Brentwood has taught me how to adapt and value what I have. Not everything goes your way or is in your hands when you want it to be. Anyone can be filled with pride or delight to see a student succeed, regardless of the circumstances. Brentwood has also shown me a wide variety of cultures, ideas, humor and personalities. It's also been a

benefit that many teachers and staff from Brentwood have their own stories to share, which allows the formation of connections with their students."

– Ross salutatorian
Ileen Villarreal

With Help from Brentwood, Suffolk County Legislator Sam Gonzalez Collects 5,000 Valentine's Day Cards for Veterans



The men and women who serve our country in our military are truly heroes, and whenever an opportunity arises for our students to do something nice for our men and women in uniform, Brentwood School District eagerly takes advantage. One such opportunity occurred this year, as students throughout Brentwood joined with their friends from Central Islip to create valentines for veterans. On a holiday marked by love and thoughtfulness, the selfless students of Brentwood and Central Islip did their part to remind our veterans that there are always people out there thinking of them and grateful for the sacrifices they have made. Valentine's for Veterans campaign, as it was called, was spearheaded by Suffolk County Legislator Sam Gonzalez. All told, the students who participated from the Brentwood and Central Islip school districts collected an **amazing** 5,000 Valentine's Day cards!

"We couldn't be more proud of the way the students of Brentwood—along with their friends in Central Islip—rallied to support and show their appreciation to our veterans," said Brentwood Board of Education President Robert Feliciano. "We stress character issues here at Brentwood, and try to create good citizens on top of good students. The amazing response to the Valentine's for Veterans campaign proves that our efforts in this regard have been successful."

This successful community initiative could not have been made possible without the help of the following schools:

From Brentwood:

- Brentwood High School
- Brentwood Freshman Center
- East Middle School
- North Middle School
- South Middle School
- West Middle School
- East Elementary
- Frank J. Cannon Southeast Elementary
- Gail Elaine Kirkham Northeast Elementary School
- North Elementary School
- Hemlock Park Elementary
- Laurel Park Elementary School
- Loretta Park Elementary School

- Oak Park Elementary School
- Pine Park Elementary School
- Southwest Elementary School
- Twin Pines Elementary School

From Central Islip:

- Central Islip High School
- Ralph G. Reed Middle School
- Anthony Alfano Elementary School
- Charles Mulligan Elementary School
- Cordello Avenue Elementary School
- Francis J. O'Neill Elementary School
- Marguerite Mulvey Elementary School
- Andrew T. Morrow Elementary School

I'd like to thank the local schools that participated in crafting Valentine's Day cards and the active military posts who graciously agreed to distribute cards to their organizations. It is incredibly important to bridge the gap between our youth and our veteran population. Suffolk County is home to the most veterans in New York State, and it is imperative to teach our youth that we must show them respect and gratitude for the sacrifices they've made for our country. I'm proud of all the students who participated, and I am ecstatic that I was able to distribute 5,000 Valentine's Day cards to men and women so deserving of kindness this holiday.

- Legislator Gonzalez



BRENTWOOD STUDENTS THINK LIKE SCIENTISTS



Teachers in Brentwood are challenging students to incorporate the Science and Engineering Practices (SEPS) into their learning with the implementation of the new Elevate Science program in grades K-8. Students are making sense of the world around them through phenomena-based activities and explorations. In each topic of study in the Elevate Science program, students are introduced to someone working in the STEM field, such as a game designer, architect, ecologist, toy engineer, or boat builder; in this way, Brentwood students will encounter dozens of STEM careers for their own consideration over time. Students are encountering problem-based activities and quests to figure out solutions as they master the new Next Generation Learning Standards.

New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards call for a new way to learn. Elevate Science empowers students to become more self-directed, curious, and accountable. During the pandemic, the new instructional model blended both print and digital learning into dynamic student-centered experiences. Students learned to connect ideas, use evidence, and demonstrate their understandings of key concepts and skills. Three-dimensional learning requires students to make connections between Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs), Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs). The new science program was adopted in grades K,1,2 and 6 in 2018-19, grades 3,5,7 in 2019-20 and grades 4 and 8 are in full implementation this school year. Our students are collecting data from measurements, keeping track of procedures, recording observations about the results of their experiments, and learning how to explain whether the observations support their predictions.

SCIENCE LIVES AT OAK PARK!

At Oak Park Elementary, the science curriculum has never been more exciting. Students demonstrated their understanding of various science and engineering skills with the following projects:

- Students from Mr. Melgar's fifth grade class learned about the layers of earth and then created a model earth.
- Students from Ms. Krumholz's class designed and built igloos with marshmallows and toothpicks.
- Students from Ms. Crowe's second grade class designed and built water dams with pop sticks.
- On the first day with snow, Ms. Amodemo's first grade students went outside to catch a snowflake, use a magnifying glass and make observations.
- Ms. Caramico's and Ms. Ermert's classes learned about arctic animals. They learned that blubber keeps polar bears and penguins warm in the cold climate.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

AT OAK PARK ELEMENTARY, IT'S EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

Andrea Perla Ponce, a third grader at Oak Park, achieved first place in the Town of Islip's Earth Day Poster Contest this month. The contest, open to all school-aged children, challenged Oak Park's students to illustrate what Earth Day, Every Day means to them. As first place winner, Andrea received a \$250 gift card for her elementary school. Please join us in celebrating Andrea's hard work and success! #BrentwoodProud #BrentwoodStrong

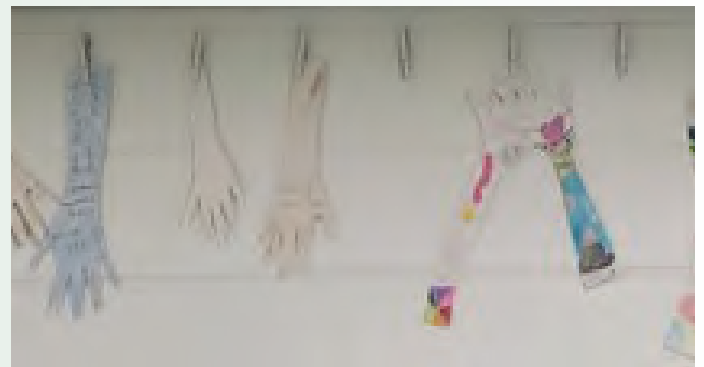


SATURDAY SCIENCE ACADEMY THRIVES AT EAST ELEMENTARY

East Elementary School families engaged in at-home, Saturday science experiments over various times throughout the school year; the results of which were posted on Parent Square. Students and their families followed the steps of a science experiment, watched a video, read a book related to the monthly science activity, and ultimately shared their experiment in a Flipgrid video. One particularly fun activity saw students making fake snow at home, and then following up on their experiments by reading about snow, as well as posting, sharing, and viewing classmates' videos on Flipgrid. Students received a "Mad Scientist Award" and a small prize for participating! We are so proud of our young scientists!

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL CREATES A POWERFUL POSTER OF SUPPORT

As part of the Brentwood's disabilities awareness initiative, sixth grade students at North Middle School participated in multidisciplinary classroom activities to learn about Down syndrome and autism. Classes met several individuals with disabilities and learned through first-hand experience what they can do to promote an inclusive environment based on respect and acceptance. Students reflected on what they learned by creating visual representations to celebrate each other's differences.



SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS BEAUTIFY THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD

Members of the National Junior Honor Society at South Middle School participated in the Great American Clean-Up, the nation's largest community improvement program to end littering across the country. The Brentwood NJHS members, in conjunction with Keep Islip Clean, rolled up their sleeves to help beautify and demonstrate community spirit in their hometown.