



The Panther Press

Fall 2022

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

Panther Pride Roars at Miller Place's 2022-2023 Homecoming Celebration

All homecoming celebrations are special. Miller Place's Homecoming for the 2022-2023 was truly one-of-a-kind, however, as it coincided with our return to fully traditional instruction. The enthusiasm, energy and Panther Pride on display this Homecoming by students, staff and families was truly something to behold. Highlights included our annual Homecoming football game, a parade, performances by our marching band, and the introduction of some new members of Miller Place's Athletic Hall of Fame.

"The community showed tremendous Panther Pride this homecoming weekend and our students displayed their enthusiasm representing themselves and the district in typical Panther tradition—colorful, creative and uniquely Miller Place," said Superintendent of Schools Seth Lipshie. "The energy from those in attendance was palpable and it was great to reunite with alumni." Please enjoy photos from this wonderful day, and for more information about our Homecoming—and the spirit week leading up to it—please see Mr. Lipshie's message on page 2.



A Message from the Board of Education

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year of promise and opportunity for all of our students.

Our district is moving forward in many positive ways, starting with the coordination of and support from our new Superintendent, Seth Lipshie. Additionally, I am excited to see the progress being made on our bond that the community passed back in the fall 2021. During our monthly Board of Education meetings, we will keep you updated on bond work, and we will also post information on the district web site.

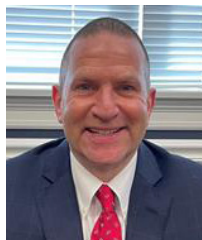
I am thrilled to share just a sampling of the amazing things that have and will take place this fall. Miller Place brought back Pep Rally for the High School students in September during Homecoming week. Our wonderful Panther Players are staging their fall play. And, as many of our community members have been requesting, we are going to be providing access to our Board of Education meetings virtually. In September, we began recording and streaming our monthly Board of Education meetings (link is provided on our website).

We have an amazing, supportive community of parents, teachers, administrators and support staff in the Miller Place School District. I encourage you all to attend Board of Education meetings and become involved in your school community in any way that you can. We can accomplish so much more when we work together!

As our year progresses, I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our Miller Place students. Each of us on the Board of Education are Miller Place Proud!

Lisa Reitan
Board of Education President

A Message from the Superintendent



As summer turns to fall, it signals the start of a new school year. I have been extremely pleased with the opening of school as we returned to a more traditional setting for 2022-23.

In August parents, guardians and students were invited into our buildings for a walk-through and orientation. Staff gathered on August 31st for Superintendent's Conference Day to finalize preparation for students' return. On September 1st, over 2,400 students returned to classrooms—including the 2023 Senior Class along with our newest generation of students, the Class of 2036 at Andrew Muller Primary School. As we opened, the new school year activities were in high gear. Each school building had their open houses as parents and guardians were invited to meet their child's teachers. This fall, 19 interscholastic athletic teams will be representing Miller Place. At the secondary level, 38 clubs are offered that students can choose to join. In the late fall and early winter, clubs will start at both Andrew Muller Primary School and Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School.

The district celebrated spirit week beginning on September 12th. Students dressed up each day of the week to display their spirit: Pajama Day, Tropical Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, Throwback Thursday and Friday Spirit Day. The last day of the week included a Pep Rally at the high school. The culmination of spirit week came on September 17th with the Homecoming Parade and football game. In addition to Homecoming, this year the Athletic Hall of Fame inducted seven new members that included: Andrew Stafford, Class of '77; Jacqueline Curtiss, Class of '79; Marion Mastrangelo, Class of '84; Ellen Moorehead, Class of '85; and Greg Gaillard, Class of '96. Two coaches were also inducted, Sal Passamano and Liz Borsetti.

As students start the new academic year, the Miller Place staff is committed to planning, teaching and supporting student success inside and outside the classroom. There will be times that students may struggle, and when they do, it is important for parents and guardians to reach out to the staff so they can best understand any issues and devise a plan to reduce those struggles that might prevent their success.

As always, I look forward to working with students, parents, guardians and staff to continue to improve on our student success and continue to make Miller Place the best possible District.

Sincerely,

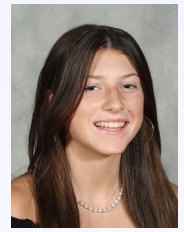
Mr. Seth A. Lipshie
Superintendent of Schools

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST AND COMMENDED SCHOLAR

The National Merit Semifinalist and Commended Scholar statuses represent the top 1 percent of PSAT exam scores in the nation. Lilah Lindemann has been selected to continue the National Merit Scholarship process as a National Merit Semifinalist, and Ashley Synan has been recognized as a Commended Scholar. Congratulations to both on their accomplishment and pursuit of academic excellence.



Lilah M. Lindemann
National Merit Semifinalist



Ashley P. Synan
*National Merit
Commended Scholar*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AP SCHOLARS!

The AP Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on multiple AP Exams.



Landon M.
Agic



Emma F.
Balamoti



David J.
Bang



Christopher J.
Barton



Alexia R.
Becker



Jane E.
Chamberlin



Peter J.
Conelli



Julianne M.
Donohue



Eileen R.
Duffly



Kyle J.
Fehling



Nathaly M.
Garcia



Matthew T.
Ierna-Petrie



Zander W.
Klaric



Leo W.
Lin



Maura J.
Luby



Jordan S.
Luise



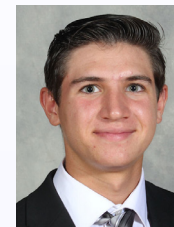
Robert M.
McBrien



Brooke K.
McCormick



Lucas J.
McGuire



Ryan J.
Michalski



Colleen M.
Murphy



Kai H.
Schiera



Robert J.
Seidler



Jeremy P.
Stanzione



Tristan J.
Stapleton



Christian M.
Tarsia



Andrew J.
Zarbhanelian



Brandon
Zou

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

NEW LITERACY SERIES PUTS READING IN FOCUS AT AMPS

The Andrew Muller Primary School—along with the other elementary grades—has adopted a new language and literacy series this year titled *Into Reading*. The program features an abundance of meaningful and interesting literature, high-quality guided reading material, a workshop approach to its writing instruction, and is aligned to the NYS standards. *Into Reading* is the perfect new program for our students.

Three teachers from each grade piloted this program last spring. This year, students have already begun to enjoy it as they listen and read wonderful text and dig into the target skills that make good readers: new vocabulary words, grammar, story structure, exploring genres and answering small and essential questions found in fiction and non-fiction text. We can't wait to see all the progress our students will make as readers and writers this year.



NO BIG DEAL—JUST A VIRTUAL VISIT FROM ONE OF THE GREATEST ATHLETES OF ALL TIME AT LADDIE A. DECKER



Here's a story sure to make sports fans of all ages jealous: third grade students in Mr. Mas' class at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School recently were paid a virtual visit by Steph Curry, recent NBA champion, newly published children's author, and one of the most decorated athletes of all time.

Reading from his book, *I Have a Superpower*, which teaches readers that any goal is achievable as long as they have heart and determination, Steph Curry provided a powerful message to our third graders. All in attendance were excited to take part in such a fun event!

NCRMS STUDENTS ARE GROWING BEYOND EARTH

North Country Road Middle School teachers Laura Opitz and Ian Dowd have registered our grade seven science classes to participate in an endeavor that goes beyond the walls of our building. In fact, one could argue the project is out of this world! Working in cooperation with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and NASA, our classes will be a part of Growing Beyond Earth (GBE), a classroom-based citizen science project designed to advance NASA research on growing plants in space. It includes a series of plant experiments conducted by students in a Fairchild-designed plant habitat similar to the Vegetable Production System (Veggie) on the International Space Station. With experiments currently in progress in more than 300 middle and high schools across the country, GBE provides a steady stream of valuable data to NASA scientists who are developing technologies for growing food crops for long-duration missions into deep space. Students have the opportunity to present their findings to NASA researchers and administrators during the live, virtual Student Research Symposium. The program correlates with our transition to the new Next Generation Learning Standards in Science. After students follow the experiment that has been scripted for the purpose of research consistent with the other schools participating, they will be given an opportunity to create their own experiments with creative insight developed from their newfound background knowledge.



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

INTRODUCING THE PANTHER PRESS

As you've no doubt noticed, our Miller Place newsletter has a new name this year: *The Panther Press*! We're excited for this new chapter in the history of our newsletter, and we'd like to share how exactly the new name came to be.

With any organization or publication, there comes a time when a little bit of brand refresh is on order. Luckily, the Miller Place School District is home to some of the most creative young people on Long Island. When our newsletter needed a new name, we knew exactly where to look. District administration tasked John Vallone's journalism class at Miller Place High School to come up with a new newsletter name that would reflect our school culture and the purpose of our publication. We think their decision—*The Panther Press*—does exactly that.

The Panther name is a source of justified pride here in Miller Place, as it reminds us instantly of all that we have accomplished in the classroom, on the fields of play, and on the stage. "Press" provides the perfect pairing; not only does the alliteration sound pleasing, but the word also invokes the name of our school's old school newspaper.

We're excited for this new era of the newsletter, and we'd like to thank the students in Mr. Vallone's journalism class for selecting the new name.



MILLER PLACE INDUCTS NEW CLASS INTO ITS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



The athletic legacy at the Miller Place School District is long and storied, and recently added another chapter with the induction of a new class into our Athletic Hall of Fame. The 2022 class included five alumni and two former coaches—one of whom was honored posthumously.

Inductees included Andrew Stafford, who graduated in 1977; Jacqueline Curtiss, who graduated in 1979; Marion Mastrangelo, who graduated in 1984; Ellen Moorehead, who graduated in 1985; and Greg Gaillard, who graduated in 1996. Two coaches were also inducted, including Salvatore Passamano and Liz Borsetti. Ms. Borsetti, or Coach B, was honored posthumously.

At the induction ceremony, the Miller Place High School Jazz Band performed and volunteers handed out breakfast as guests took their seats for an

intimate ceremony the morning of the District's Homecoming Game. Following the ceremony, the inductees walked through a giant panther arch and through two rows of cheerleaders to be honored on the District's Stadium Field.

Inspired by Inuit Art, MPHS Students Create Beautiful Soap Sculptures

Taking inspiration from the Inuit—a group of indigenous peoples from the arctic regions such as Alaska, Greenland and Nunavut—art students in Mrs. Stasi's sculpture class carved animals from Dove soap bars. The results were amazing miniature sculptures that demonstrated the incredible skill and talent of our art students. After the project was completed, the art club recycled the scraps of soap, repurposing them into liquid hand soap.



Greg Marino



Alan Yue

MPHS Students Named Alternates at All-State Music Festival

Miller Place High School senior Greg Marino and junior Alan Yue are among the most talented student musicians in New York. Greg and Alan have been named alternates at the New York All State Music Festival, which will be held in Rochester, NY. Both students received this high level of recognition based on their All-State NYSSMA scores from the spring—as well as teacher recommendations. We're all so proud of Greg and Alan!

MPHS Students Receive All-County Jazz Honors

Seven Miller Place High School students were recently selected for the Suffolk County Music Educators Association's All County Jazz Ensembles. The rehearsals and concert will take place in East Islip in November. Congratulations to our talented student musicians. We are very proud of your accomplishments!

(L-R) Maura Luby, Devin McGrath, Sean Creedon, Kyle Fehling, Greg Marino, Kai Schiera, Martin Doherty.

