

Miller Place

Fall 2021

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us



CAN'T HIDE OUR PANTHER PRIDE!

Miller Place School District's Spirit Week, held in the fall, is a tremendously fun event that allows everyone in our district—students and staff—to enjoy being together, celebrate our schools, and just have a great time. The 2021 Spirit Week was especially cathartic, as it came on the heels of almost two years of COVID-related challenges. A chance to enjoy each other's company in school spirit was just what we all needed, and we took advantage of the opportunity.

Held each day of the third week of October, and culminating with the Homecoming game on October 23rd, Miller Place's Spirit Week comprised several days of fun, including events like Throwback Thursday, Character Day and Pajama Day. Take a look at some photos from this awesome week.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Miller Place Board of Education and the central administration would like to thank the Miller Place community for its support of our Proposed Bond Plan at the polls on October 19th. As a result of the community's support, we will be able to fund critical infrastructure and facilities projects that add air conditioning in all classrooms, improved air quality in all classrooms and infrastructure needs, all with zero tax impact on residents. Thank you for your support.

A Message from the Superintendent

While the 2021-2022 school year is just a couple months under way, it's safe to say that this will be another year full of tremendous accomplishment and success courtesy of our amazing students. Year after year, it seems that our students find a way to distinguish themselves and make all of Miller Place proud. Whether it's the nearly 50 AP scholars we are highlighting on pages 4 and 5, or the students standing up for peace and kindness, as you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, Miller Place is full of young people whose opportunities and talents know no bounds.

It's a central goal of this administration to make sure the educators and staff at Miller Place continue to do everything we can to continue to foster an environment of learning that promotes imagination, growth and success. Our students have the tools to succeed; it's incumbent upon us as educators to make sure students have access to those tools whenever possible.

The final piece of this puzzle is you, the community. You have been an incredible partner in education my entire tenure at Miller Place, and we look forward to continued collaboration. Join us at upcoming concert and athletic events, stay updated via our Facebook page and website postings, and read publications such as this one. I'm so excited to see what we can all accomplish together this year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano,
Superintendent of Schools

A Message from the Board of Education

The Miller Place Community never ceases to amaze me. I speak on behalf of the entire Board when I say that it makes all of us so happy to know that we serve a community that cares about the importance of public education, and that's exactly what we have here in Miller Place. At our recent homecoming, I saw a passionate community that cares about its students and its schools. The passion and enthusiasm remind us all about how much this district means to the people who live here.

Our students' efforts and accomplishments so far this school year are to be commended. We continue to be proud of all you do.

I'd also like to thank the community for supporting our Proposed Bond Plan via referendum last month. Once again, the residents of Miller Place reaffirmed their commitment to education. With this approved bond, we'll be able to drastically improve the facilities and infrastructure at Miller Place, and we couldn't have done it without the voters' support.

We look forward to another wonderful year at Miller Place, working together to achieve amazing things.

As always, Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa, Miller Place Board of Education *President*



WELCOME BACK, PANTHERS!

In September, the Miller Place School District officially welcomed students back for the 2021-2022 school year—full time and in-person!

Friends were reunited and those new to the district were warmly welcomed as the newest members of the Miller Place School District community. Despite the rough weather in the New York area in early September, students of all ages were eager to begin a new year of learning and fun experiences. Our District wishes everyone in the school community a happy and healthy new school year!

DISTRICT NOTES

NCRMS REMEMBERS 9/11 THROUGH GOOD DEEDS

In September, on the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, seventh and eighth grade math students in Ms. D'Andrea and Ms. Radday's classes at North Country Road Middle School watched a video that portrayed the resilient kindness and compassion of the American people following the attacks. Students discussed acts of kindness that they could perform, inspired by those that went above and beyond for others in the face of adversity. Classes completed a display board composed of pledges from students in reference to good deeds that they could do for others. The board was then displayed in the school.



DURING CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, THE CLASS OF 2022 HONORS THE MEMORY OF THOMAS SCULLY

In the earliest days of the school year, Miller Place High School's driveway was lined with signs featuring gold ribbons. The resplendent sight was created to honor and remember Thomas Scully, a classmate and member of the Class of 2022, who passed away from pediatric cancer in 2016 at the age of 12. The ribbons were also in observance of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time where people all over the world strive to increase awareness and raise funds for those affected by childhood cancer. The ribbons were a powerful symbol of solidarity from our students at MPHS and demonstrated the maturity of character our students possess.

FIREFIIGHTERS VISIT YOUNGEST STUDENTS IN CHERISHED SCHOOL TRADITION

Chances are, all of us have fond memories of the times our local heroes in the fire department visited our schools when we were children. Watching the big red truck pull into the parking lot, seeing the courageous men and women, often in full uniform giving presentations—these are cherished memories for so many American school children, and it's a ritual that students at Andrew Muller Primary School took part in this fall.

The Miller Place Fire Department and Sound Beach Fire Department were gracious enough to stop by and spend time with our kindergarten, first, and second grade students. Students were taught crucial lessons about fire safety and were able to get an inside look at the engines and ambulances. Firefighters also demonstrated how the fire hose works, and of course, distributed those famous red plastic firefighter hats! Thank you so much to the Miller Place and Sound Beach fire departments.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AP SCHOLARS!

THE AP SCHOLAR AWARDS RECOGNIZE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXEMPLARY COLLEGE-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT ON AP EXAMS.



SCOTT
BISIANI



LILIANA
BOSSHARD



HANNAH
CANTONE



KALYNA
CHASE



DANIELLE
CIRRIOT



MEGHAN
CONNOLLY



NICHOLAS
DALEO



AMELIA
DEROSA



KATE
DOYLE



JAMES
DUFFY



KIRSTIN
ELLIOTT



BROOKE FISHER



BROOKE GEISER



HADEN HUNT



MICHAEL
IERNA PETRIE



MATTHEW
JACOVELLI



GIOVANNA KALIN



CHARLIZE
KOLASINSKI



EMMA LAMOUNTAIN



LUKE LEAHY



BROOKE LEDDA



BRENDON LEHMANN



JACK LEONE



LILAH LINDEMANN



MICHAEL MANOLIS



CADENCE MASINO



JOSEPH MILETTI



SEAN MULLER



LAUREN NERI



MICHAEL PERRINO



TRAVIS POLAK



ANGELENA POLITO



LIAM PRESTON



MATTHEW REILLY



DIYA SAINI



NICHOLAS SAVINO



CAILEIGH SEXTON



ZOE SKARUPSKI



THOMAS
TUMMINELLO



MICHAEL WARREN



ABIGAIL WEINER



SARAH WINTER



MAKAYLA
WITHERELL

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPOOKY SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

Dressing up is the best part of Halloween (O.K., maybe after the candy), and students and staff at the **Andrew Muller Primary School** recently got into the fun by hosting a costume dress-up day, staging a Halloween parade, and participating in Halloween-themed classroom activities. Children used the occasion to dress up as their favorite movie characters, animals or future careers, while teachers channeled their inner kids and dressed as video game characters, insects and scarecrows!



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL

LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL COMMEMORATES PEACE DAY

Celebrated the world over, International Peace Day is observed on September 21st and aims to strengthen the ideals of peace throughout the globe. In honor of this important day, students, and teachers at **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School** participate in inspiring assemblies and a variety of activities to promote diversity and foster acceptance among peers. Students and staff talked about what it means to be compassionate, how to be a positive influence within the school, and the role they play in creating a culture of respect and solidarity.



START WITH HELLO AT LADSBS

We had a wonderful opening to school at **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School**, filled with activities, learning, and fun! Our “Start with Hello” week had our students making new friends, sharing stories about what makes them proud, learning about empathy, and wearing their pajamas and school colors to celebrate the fact that we are one big LADSBS family! Continuing our focus on kindness, caring, and family, we held our “famous” Jared Campbell concert outside on the playground blacktop. An award-winning singer/songwriter, Jared sang songs focused on overcoming obstacles, anti-bullying, respect, leadership and keeping a positive outlook on life! Our students were singing, dancing, and clapping throughout the show!

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

PEACHY KEEN, NCRMS' FORMER TURTLE, RETURNS HOME

There are many approaches to engage students in scientific discovery, but there is nothing like an authentic, hands-on experience. The perfect example was provided to the members of the Science Club in the **North Country Road Middle School**. One they have been able to enjoy for months by taking care of—and eventually releasing—Peachy Keen, an adopted sea turtle. After learning about the rescue protocol, and taking care of Peachy Keen, the Science Club released the turtle back into the ocean at Tiana Beach in Hampton Bays. Students wrote about their experience and included some illustrations in a book that the club has created to be published in cooperation with Canon, Inc. Since being released in August, Peachy Keen has traveled all the way across the south shore of Long Island and was most recently tagged on the south shore of Nassau County near Long Beach, NY! If you'd like to track Peachy Keen, visit <http://nymarinerescue.org/what-we-do/>, scroll to "maps," and click on Peachy Keen.



PROGRESS MADE AT THE NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

As we move into the early stages of our 2021-22 school year, the positive mindset at **North Country Road Middle School** can be defined with an appropriate mantra: "Not perfection, but progress." It was great for students to participate in a number of things that were not scheduled in recent months, with some necessary adjustments that make perfect sense. When the weather permits, many of our classrooms move outside on a given day to enjoy the outdoor setting and engage in meaningful learning experiences. Sports began this Fall with all of our teams competing against neighboring schools. Over 180 students attended an outdoor dance on our tennis courts, and our grade-seven students were able to attend a half day trip to Cedar Beach and Sadderly Landing to learn about the health of a treasured local ecosystem, including some techniques to measure significant data in reference to our shoreline. Students met with local employees at the oyster hatchery that provides young oysters to farms along both North and South shores of Long Island. Our middle school is off to a great start, with growing potential to build on the momentum that has been established during the early stages of this year!

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

DEADLIEST CATCH STAR VISITS MPHS

Miller Place High School recently played host to one of the stars of the Discovery Channel's hit TV show, *Deadliest Catch*. Nick Tokman, known as Sunshine to fans of the show, delivered an empowering message about overcoming self-doubt and distraction to the students in attendance. Conquering negative influences, connecting with your voice, creating your success and becoming your own captain were a few ideas that Sunshine threaded into his memorable presentation. Guest speakers provide a unique opportunity for our students to experience different careers firsthand and hear from different voices. Everyone at MPHS enjoyed hearing from Nick Tokman, and we look forward to seeing who stops by Miller Place next!



MUSIC & ART NEWS

MILLER PLACE'S SUFFOLK COUNTY MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (SCMEA) ALL-COUNTY JAZZ MUSICIANS SELECTED!

Pictured are the SCMEA All-County jazz musicians that were selected to represent Miller Place in the recent concert. Congratulations to all of these outstanding students! Mrs. Isenberg, Miles Vaska, Wyatt Shattes, Luke Dwyer, Emma Delaney, Julianne Donahue, Scott Bisiani Kai Schiera and Devin McGrath (not pictured).



TALENTED MILLER PLACE MUSICIAN TO PERFORM AT NEW YORK ALL STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Luke Dwyer (R) will be performing trombone with the Symphonic Band at the New York All State Music Festival to be held in Rochester, NY from December 2 to 5. Lilah Lindemann (L) was selected as an alternate on flute for the Symphonic Band.

NEW MILLER PLACE ART CLUB LOGO DESIGNED BY SOPHOMORE!

The Miller Place High School Art Club recently hosted a design contest to create the official Miller Place Art Club Logo! A big congratulations are in order for sophomore, Emma Rosequist, who expertly put her graphic design skills to work creating a sophisticated yet playful logo. The official Miller Place Art Club logo will be used for all official art club gear and paperwork! Congratulations, Emma!



ATHLETICS CORNER

MILLER PLACE PANTHERS WIN HOMECOMING; DEFEAT MOUNT SINAI 41-27

Congratulations to our Panthers for an impressive, hard-fought Homecoming victory over the Mustangs of Mount Sinai. The win was a perfect end to a great Spirit Week!



LIAM PRESTON ACHIEVES ALL-AMERICAN SWIMMER STATUS

A big congratulations is in order for MPHS senior Liam Preston, who has recently been named to the USA Swimming 2021 Scholastic All-American Team. This achievement recognizes Liam's success both in and out of the pool. Each selected swimmer must have achieved a national meet cut time and have a GPA of 3.5 or greater, with only 286 male swimmers coming from the Eastern Zone. This is a huge accomplishment and the Miller Place School District is extremely proud of Liam!

MPHS PANTHERS PRESENT JERSEYS TO INFLUENTIAL FACULTY MEMBERS

Members of the Miller Place High School varsity football team recently honored their favorite teachers by letting them know just how influential they are. In a powerful gesture, each player handed his jersey to a teacher he felt has had a positive impact. The teachers proudly sported the players' jerseys throughout the entire school day before homecoming.



MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

Board of Education: Johanna Testa, *President* • Lisa Reitan, *Vice President*
Keith Frank, *Trustee* • Bryan Makarius, *Trustee* • Scott Bisiani, *Student Representative*
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano