

# Miller Place

Spring 2021

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



[www.millerplace.k12.ny.us](http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us)

## Three Miller Place High School Business Students Receive Top Honors in 2021 LIBTA Competition

With the economy continuously in a state of ebb and flow, and the opportunities for innovation near endless, it's more important than ever for students in high school to learn the principles of business and entrepreneurship. The world of today and tomorrow is set up so that anyone can be an entrepreneur or an innovator; it's up to educators to prepare students for this reality.

For these reasons and many more, we at the Miller Place School

District were so proud to see our students do well in the recent 2021 Long Island Business Teachers' Association (LIBTA) contest. Three students in particular really stood out, as Matthew Niemczyk won 1st place in accounting; Zoe Bussewitz, 1st place



in business law; and Alessandra Dimtchev, 4th place in personal finance. This incredible showing by these three bright Miller Place students speaks to their skill, discipline, and drive. Well done!

The annual competition, hosted by LIBTA, serves as an opportunity for students to build upon their business knowledge and challenge themselves through friendly competition. Students compete in the following business topics:

accounting, business calculations, business law, business principles, college accounting, entrepreneurship, fashion marketing and merchandising, personal finance, sports marketing, and the elevator pitch.

## Miller Place Mathematicians Multiply their Success

*28 Students from North Country Road Middle School Participate in MathCON*

With the proliferation of technology and its insertion into every facet of our lives, it has never been more important for students to excel in mathematics. Fortunately, the future is in good hands if the students of North Country Road Middle School are any indication. More than two dozen young mathematicians from NCRMS calculated the means

to success while challenging themselves in the 2021 MathCON competition. Three students—Christopher Barton, grade 9; Stephen Ye, grade 7; and Jonathan Bang, grade 7—advanced to the final round of the competition. Additionally, eighth graders Lucy Chang and Matthew Cirrito earned spots as alternate finalists and have the opportunity to compete depending on competition enrollment.



As part of the competition process, students were challenged to a 40-minute online exam comprising several multiple-choice questions. The exam included problems of varying degrees of difficulty, enabling all students to be challenged at the same level. The competition, spearheaded by Ms. Maureen Radday and Ms. Corinne D'Andrea, provided Miller Place's students

an opportunity to showcase their ingenuity and knowledge of mathematics. MathCON, a national nonprofit mathematics organization, provides students across the nation with an educational opportunity to challenge themselves against other students in an effort to enhance their mathematics interest and earn scholarship opportunities.

## *A Message from the Board of Education*

As we approach the final few weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, I remain so impressed with the tenacity of the entire Miller Place School District family. From building to building, the educators, coaches, nurses, clerical staff, facilities staff, and administrators of Miller Place demonstrated nothing short of heroic resolve through historic challenges. They worked to ensure that at no point was the education provided in our classrooms anything but excellent.

I want to make special mention of one group, however: the students. We are proud of all of them, particularly the class of 2021. The students graduating this year had nearly the entirety of their final two years in high school irreparably changed. Taken from these students were rites of passage that young men and women have enjoyed for generations. But through it all, the class of 2021 never allowed itself to be overtaken by frustration or melancholy. Instead, they made the best of it. They showed everyone—even those of us with years of experience—what it means to be tough. They met challenges the likes of which Americans hadn't seen in decades, and prospered. I will take inspiration from the class of 2021 for years to come, and I know that many of us feel the same.

Sincerely,

Johanna Testa  
President of the Miller Place School District Board of Education

## *A Message from the Superintendent*

### *Thank You to the Community*

On behalf of the Miller Place School District Administration, as well as the Board of Education, we thank the community for supporting the district's 2021-2022 school district budget when you went to the polls on May 18. By doing so, you sent a powerful and positive message to all: public school is essential. We would also like to congratulate Bryan Makarius on his election to the Board of Education as trustee.

We know it has been a difficult year—one marked by frequent changes and challenges. As Ms. Testa noted in her message, the resolve of our community through it all has been remarkable. The one constant in this unprecedented year has been the unwavering support of our community and the determination and resolve of our students, staff and school community. We look forward to the summer months to recharge our batteries and prepare to welcome our students back in September 2021.

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano  
Superintendent of Schools

## **Throughout the Spring and Summer, NCRMS Students Are Working to Rescue Sea Turtles in New York Waters**

The marine life surrounding Long Island is simply remarkable, but many of the beautiful creatures that inhabit these waters need our help. Thankfully, students in the Science Club at North Country Road Middle School are participating in a sea turtle rescue program sponsored by the New York Marine Rescue Center (NYMRC) and Canon. During this time, students will dive deeper into the rescue and rehabilitation process of sea turtles found in New York waters by participating in lectures and programming leading up to in-person beach learning. Students will be collaborating with one another in writing and illustrating a fictional story about their adopted turtles, which will be published and sold at NYMRC gift shops as a fundraiser. During the late-summer months, students will be invited to a private release to send their turtles back to the wild. Being a good citizen in your community means caring about all the wildlife that makes your area special, and the students of NCRMS are proving that they truly want to make a difference for the better.



# *Creativity in Instruction at Andrew Muller Primary School*

*One of the hallmarks of a great education, and great teachers, is the ability to put a new spin on a time-tested lesson. Lessons on reading, writing, arithmetic and so on are staples of an elementary education, a rite of passage as ingrained in American schooling as riding the school bus or taking your class photos. Just because these subjects have been around forever doesn't mean there aren't new and creative ways to teach them, as teachers at Andrew Muller Primary School have demonstrated so clearly over the spring.*



## **IT'S ALWAYS TIME FOR 'S'MORE' LEARNING**

There were a bunch of happy campers at Andrew Muller Primary School this spring! In a multidisciplinary program aimed at fostering a love of reading and mathematics, Mrs. Trelfa's second grade class transformed the classroom into a temporary indoor campground. It was a fun—and extremely creative—way to teach valuable lessons.

Students gathered their camping gear, which was courtesy of a generous contribution from class parents, and assembled around the paper campfire for a fun day full of adventure. The trip began with Mrs. Trelfa guiding students through camp-themed math activities, such as utilizing coins to purchase supplies at a trading post and a “scoot” where students walked around the room solving math problems taped to their tents. Later, the class welcomed a surprise reader, student teacher Ms. Randazzo, for a classroom read-aloud, and children shared their favorite books from home, in the classroom and as part of the Epic Books website.

## **TEDDY BEAR CARE**

Meanwhile, kindergarten students at Andrew Muller Primary School were busy transforming their classrooms in a lesson that reinforced early principles of safety, health and empathy, while also providing an exercise in reading and writing. With help from teachers, the kindergarten classroom turned into a virtual emergency care facility. Except this hospital had a very particular set of patients: stuffed animals! The Teddy Bear Clinic, a free injury prevention program sponsored by the Trauma Center at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, provides a hands-on learning experience for young children to better understand how medical personnel provide care.

With their surgical caps on, AMPS's students worked as medical professionals to diagnose their bears' illnesses or injuries and determine the appropriate treatment procedures. The student-doctors even filled out medical forms to reflect on their roles as providers. Stony Brook nurses discussed important safety initiatives the young students can proactively take to protect themselves from injury—like wearing a seatbelt while in a moving vehicle and a helmet when riding a bike or scooter.



# KATE ALICE MARSHALL, WELL-KNOWN YOUNG ADULT AUTHOR, VIRTUALLY VISITS NCRMS

No matter the age, no matter if you're a student, teacher or parent, everyone loves a good book club. This is especially true for the members of the North Country Road Middle School's book club, as they were recently paid a visit, virtually, by Kate Alice Marshall, a successful and well-known author of young adult (known as YA) novels.

Ms. Marshall, author of YA books such as *I am Still Alive* and *Rules for Vanishing*, enraptured the students with her story and her passion for reading and writing. The group of book enthusiasts were eager to hear how Kate's passion for writing began at a very young age and that her inspiration stemmed from her father, an avid storyteller. Through it all, the message was clear: Anyone can do this. All it takes is imagination, determination, and a passion for discovery.



## THE 'ROOTS' OF GIVING BACK

Earth Day represents a great opportunity to refocus on our commitment to the earth, but it is also a great opportunity to give back to the community. This Earth Day, the Miller Place High School Service Club gave back to the school community by planting a variety of flowers in the MPHS Memorial Garden. Thank you, MPHS Service Club, for being exemplary members of the Miller Place community.



## LADSBS SIDEWALKS GET A LITTLE COLOR

The sidewalks along Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School are full of color and positive affirmations, courtesy of Mrs. Hoffman and her generous, kind students. The class used sidewalk chalk to showcase their artistry and enhance their fine motor skills while also expressing themselves in their own creative way. Thank you, Mrs. Hoffman's class, for spreading cheer!

# ART & MUSIC NEWS

## Students Selected to the SCMEA All-County Music Festival

There are many accolades and achievements to which a student musician in public school aspires. Few of them, however, are as meaningful and important as selection to a Suffolk County Music Educators' Association (SCMEA) festival. Since the organization's founding in 1955, the SCMEA has held festivals to celebrate the best young musicians on the Island. Selection to the festival is a credit not only to the musicians, but to the music program that fostered them. Congratulations to all involved!



## Fifth Grader in Miller Place is One of LI's Best Young Artists

Vincenzo DiGiuseppe, a fifth grader at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School, is clearly one of our brightest, most talented young student artists. Vincenzo's artwork, *A Fall Day in the Forest*, was showcased for three weeks in April at the Darcy Center for the Arts Firefly Gallery in Northport. Inspired by Long Island's fall foliage, Vincenzo created *A Fall Day in the Forest*, an original acrylic painting, using several techniques to evoke a strong sensation of spatial depth and texture on a flat canvas. The artwork was displayed prominently alongside several other student artists and Long Island art teachers, including Vincenzo's art teacher Stacey Famiglietti. It is because of Mrs. Famiglietti that Vincenzo had this tremendous opportunity to showcase his amazing talent. Congratulations to Vincenzo on this wonderful achievement, one that we are sure will be the first of many!



Artwork of Vincenzo DiGiuseppe, fifth grade student at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School



Artwork of Stacey Famiglietti, art teacher at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School

### MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Michael Ierna-Petrie	Orchestra	Flute	III	East
Liliana Bosshard	Orchestra	Cello	III	East
Lauren Neri	Orchestra	Violin	III	East
Emma Balamoti	Orchestra	Viola	III	East
Phoenix Guasto	Orchestra	Percussion	II	East
Sophia Bloom	Chorus	Alto	III	East
Hannah Egenberger	Chorus	Soprano	II	East
Emma Rosequist	Orchestra	Viola	II	East
Delaney Moore	Orchestra	Violin	III	East
Deirdre Thomson	Orchestra	Viola	III	East
Analynn Bisiani	Band	Bb Clarinet	II	East
Aidan Elder	Band	Percussion	II	East
Kai Schiera	Chorus	Bass	III	East
Luke Zotos	Chorus	Bass	III	East
Miles Vaska	Orchestra	Trombone	III	East
Kiera Bussewitz	Orchestra	Cello	II	East
Joseph Miletti	Orchestra	Cello	III	East
Eileen Duffy	Orchestra	Violin	III	East
Abigail Beers	Orchestra	Viola	III	East
Molly Caufield	Band	Baritone/Euph	II	East
Gregory Marino	Chorus	Bass	III	East
Thomas Tedeschi	Chorus	Tenor	III	East
Abigail O'Connor	Band	Baritone Sax	III	East
Alan Yue	Orchestra	Violin	II	East
Giovanna Kalin	Orchestra	Cello	III	East
Brooke Geiser	Orchestra	Viola	III	East
Caileigh Sexton	Orchestra	Viola	III	East
Bernard Creedon	Band	Alto Sax	II	East
Scott Bisiani	Chorus	Tenor	III	East
Jackson McCarthy	Chorus	Tenor	III	East
Liam Martin	Chorus	Baritone	II	East

### NORTH COUNTRY ROAD SCHOOL

Sophia Cue	Band	Flute	I	East
Andrew Byrnes	Band	French Horn	I	East
Nicholas Vallary	Band	Tenor Sax	II	East
Lorenzo Killary	Orchestra	Viola	I	East
Addison Vecchio	Orchestra	Cello	I	East
Maya Murphy	Orchestra	Double Bass	I	East
April Nielson	Chorus	Childrens Voice	I	East
Madelayna Vomero	Chorus	Childrens Voice	I	East
Andrew McGuirk	Chorus	Baritone	II	East
Nailah Rahman	Orchestra	Double Bass	II	East
Grace Walker	Band	Bb Clarinet	I	East
Ava Walter	Band	Bb Clarinet	I	East
Michael Drago	Band	Trumpet/Cornet	II	East
Allison Creighton	Orchestra	Violin	I	East
Marc Lindemann	Orchestra	Cello	I	East
Kerriane Harten	Orchestra	Violin	I	East
Dylan Tamburino	Chorus	Childrens Voice	I	East
Claire Wagner	Chorus	Soprano	II	East
Bianca Zou	Orchestra	Violin	II	East
Sean Creedon	Band	Alto Sax	I	East
Carrie Davis	Band	Baritone/Euph	II	East
Noelle Nania	Orchestra	Viola	I	East
Stephen Ye	Orchestra	Violin	I	East
Jack Sauer	Orchestra	Cello	I	East
Oscar Romero	Chorus	Childrens Voice	I	East
Zoe Weisman	Chorus	Childrens Voice	I	East
Lucy Chang	Orchestra	Violin	II	East
Devin McGrath	Band	Baritone Sax	I	East
Edward Caufield	Band	Percussion	I	East
Dane Lagrasta	Band	Trumpet/Cornet	II	East
Andy Luo	Orchestra	Violin	I	East
Evelyn Weiner	Orchestra	Cello	I	East
Hazel Samonas	Chorus	Childrens Voice	I	East
Dena Lehmann	Chorus	Childrens Voice	I	East
Sierra Wilson	Chorus	Alto	II	East

# ART & MUSIC NEWS

## Panther Players Return with Spring Musical

All across the country, live theater was unfortunately put on hold for much of 2020. This fact makes the 2021 return of live productions—events that are always an exciting moment for our schools—more special than ever. The Miller Place Panther Players of Miller Place High School returned to the stage with an all-star cast for its spring production of *Les Misérables: School Edition*. While students took the stage, patrons opened their devices at their convenience from wherever they were to enjoy a pre-recorded streaming beyond the walls of Miller Place High School.



Throughout the last six months, Miller Place's theater students dedicated their time after school in small groups, divided by cohorts, to rehearse their lines and become accommodated to new safety guidelines on stage. One month prior to production, the Panther Players were able to begin full cast rehearsals with its cast, crew and pit orchestra. It was a challenging new method for the theater students to be sure, but it was a challenge they met with resolve and maturity.

The Miller Place School District is incredibly proud of its 78 students; the director, TinaMarie DeFalco; Terrie Troyano, musical director; Katherine Butera, vocal director; Kristin Laudicina, assistant director; and Jenna Ely, stage manager. The tickets and streaming were facilitated through ShowTix4U, an online ticketing solution for education entities, theater and dance productions. For more information, please visit: <https://www.showtix4u.com/#streaming>.

## ATHLETICS CORNER

### *Congratulations, Panthers!*



Let's hear it for the incredible Miller Place High School Panthers varsity field hockey team for winning the "Class B" Suffolk County championship by a final score of 1-0! What an incredible achievement and hard-fought victory! Awesome job, Panthers!

### ANGELINA HARRIS AMONG LI'S TOP 25 SWIMMERS AND DIVERS



Angelina Harris, a senior at Miller Place High School, has been recognized as one of *Newsday's* top 25 female swimmers and divers for 2021. Angelina placed fourth for the 200 individual medley and sixth in the 100 breaststroke at the NYS

championships. Congratulations, Angelina; you truly embody what it means to have "Panther Pride!"

## MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

Board of Education: Johanna Testa, *President* • Richard Panico, *Vice President*

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Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano