

# Miller Place

Winter 2019



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

## IT'S STRICTLY BUSINESS FOR THE PANTHERS

If you are trying to find some of the most business-savvy minds around, look no further than Miller Place High School (MPHS). The high school is home to a robust Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club, in which aspiring professionals can refine their skills. What makes the MPHS FBLA unique and separates the group from a business class is that the students are afforded the opportunity to utilize their skills in real-life applications. At the core of FBLA's national mission is inspiring over 230,000 high school students across the country to become community-focused business leaders. Needless to say, the MPHS FBLA chapter fits the bill by presenting current industry challenges to students who in turn provide their innovative solutions.

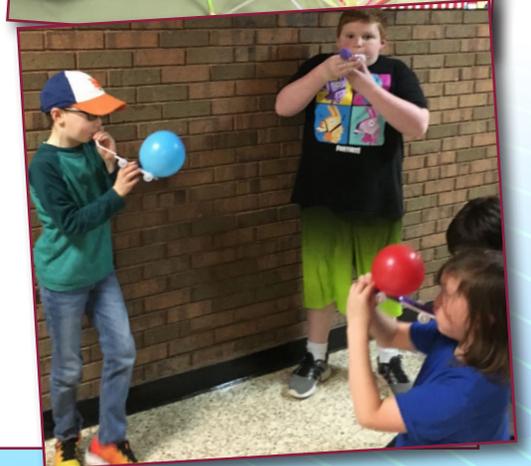
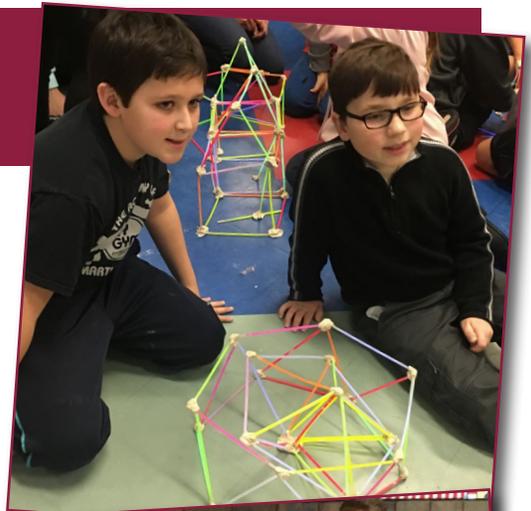


Recently, eleven students from the MPHS FBLA placed in the FBLA District 1S competition at Hofstra University. The Panthers ranked in both written and performance events including job interviews, public speaking, accounting, business communication, word processing, advertising, introduction to business, business calculations and sports marketing. Congratulations to Justyn Baldeo, Joseph Bisiani, Colin Brennan, Sarah Cucinello, Jodie Cui, Nicholas Follo, Alexis Franzoni, Cadence Masino and LoriBeth Sussman.

## HUNDREDS PARTICIPATE IN SECOND ANNUAL STEAM NIGHT

After the success of the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) Expo last year, administrators at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS) knew expectations would be high for this year's event. As predicted, LADSBS hosted an extremely successful STEAM night with over 350 people in attendance.

Hundreds of students, teachers, faculty and community members gathered for a night of innovative learning and fun. Creativity and ingenuity were on display as the students engaged in numerous collaborative projects, games and activities. If you took a walk through the hallways and classrooms at LADSBS on STEAM Night you may have noticed students studying earthquakes with a seismic simulator, creating rubber band race cars, competing to build cups made from plastic straws, learning about paleontology, creating art using only graphs and straight lines, painting pendulums to study Newton's law of motion, exploring magnetism during an interactive science lab, coding and programming robots, creating optical illusion art, and learning the fundamentals of CGI and green screen technology. The children refined essential STEAM skills using real life applications. Numerous local community organizations—such as the Comsewogue Public Library, Long Island Explorium, Long Island Science Center and Port Jefferson Library—were on hand to assist throughout the evening as well as provide information for the students to expand their interest in STEAM fields.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Although it's been a very cold winter, the hallways and classrooms throughout Miller Place have been heating up with activity. With only a few months remaining in the school year, we now have an opportunity to look back at the 2018-2019 school year and reflect on the growth that has been achieved over the last six to seven months.

As a school district, we consistently encourage the community to play an active role in the academic lives of our students. It is crucial for the district to actively seek opportunities for community engagement. Whether it's mentorships, community organizations supporting events like STEAM Night, or musical stars coming in to spread messages of kindness, the district consistently looks to bring in positive outside influences.

What truly makes the Miller Place School District proud is when students return the favor and give back to the community that supports them. Take for example Jesse Pallas, a student at LADSBS, and Emma Casey, a Rocky Point Middle School student. The two spend countless hours leading a charitable organization—that Emma founded—to provide donations to St. Charles Hospital. Our LADSBS students are also congratulated for their fundraising efforts. These children surpassed their goal of raising \$3,000 for the American Heart Association's "Kids Heart Challenge" by raising a total of \$6,773!

Our students deserve to be commended for their work and their efforts throughout the school year. Inside and outside of the classroom, district students are expanding their minds and achieving the highest levels of success, whether it be science research or an art competition. Looking to the end of the school year, it is incumbent upon all of our students to ask themselves, what's next? Succeeding today is certainly an accomplishment, but setting one's self up to succeed every day is the key to growth.

I invite you to read about all of the wonderful happenings throughout the district in this newsletter. And as always, I encourage all residents to remain active in the educational process in our schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our daily lives move so quickly that it is easy to forget to take a moment to catch our breaths. This time of the school year is a perfect time to do so. With many months of the academic year behind us, the late winter months offer a chance to reflect. Our teachers, administration and faculty all deserve the highest praise for their ceaseless and determined efforts to educate and inspire students. Their efforts, along with your support at home and within our community, have led to exceptional student achievements both. It is amazing to see our students overcome challenges, meet milestones, and grow both academically and as empathetic and giving young men and women. We are very proud of them!

The intense pace at which a school year moves also demands us, as district leaders, to be a step ahead. We are again approaching that time of year when a fiscally responsible budget for the upcoming school year must be developed. All of the district's administrators and business officials are working hard to present a budget for the 2019-2020 school year that will provide the highest level of academic programming while minimizing the fiscal burden on our taxpayers. The entire Miller Place community is encouraged to participate in all budget meetings, hearings and workshops.

By now many of you are familiar with our new Facebook page. By visiting @MillerPlaceSchoolDistrict at Facebook.com, all Miller Place residents can learn about the latest news, happenings and developments occurring throughout the district. The page will also inform the MPSD community about the achievements of Miller Place scholars, teachers, administrators and staff, as well as about school district events of interest. I invite every resident to follow the page as well as invite friends and families to like the page.

I know all district students and teachers will continue to give their best for the remainder of the school year, and I encourage all residents to remain actively engaged in our efforts.

Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa  
*Board of Education President*

# AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

## ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

To honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the **Andrew Muller Primary School (AMPS)** dedicated an entire day to the principles Dr. King taught. This day was called Peace and Kindness Day. Students were involved in a variety of activities aimed at recognizing two things: that you can only know someone after speaking with them, not just by looking at them, and that everyone, especially AMPS students, can help make the world a better place with acts of kindness.

Some of the activities included playing an ice breaker game to facilitate students from other classes getting acquainted, writing a kind letter, making a gift for a classmate, a mix-it-up lunch where students ate with children from another class, and a team-building activity where each class created a unique hallway display that was beautifully made by students collaborating. After students were introduced to age appropriate literature that celebrated diversity, they wrote down acts of kindness that they can perform onto helping hands which can be seen in our hallways and classrooms. At the end of the day, the whole school came together to sing the Bruno Mars song, “You Can Count On Me”.



## LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL

Music doesn't just sound good and get the party going—it has the power to bring people together and touch our emotions. That's why **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS)** recently hosted nationally renowned musical performer Jared Campbell at an assembly on respect, bullying prevention and responsibility. Mr. Campbell performed his interactive musical show *The Blue Project* to teach the young children to create a positive culture through music. The students sang, danced and clapped along to Campbell's music which was full of messages of positivity and overcoming challenges.

In addition to the uplifting concert, Mr. Campbell took some time to speak to the students to share his inspiring messages of peace and kindness at the assembly. While talking to the children, Mr. Campbell quoted the late Steve Jobs with the Apple founder's famous words; “Your time is limited. Don't waste it living someone else's life.” The assembly and arrangement for Mr. Campbell to come to LADSBS are part of the district's overarching goal to empower students and foster a community of kindness.



## NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

**North Country Road Middle School (NCRMS)** students took the AMC 8 by storm! During the month of November, students from NCRMS were invited to participate in the annual American Mathematics Competition for middle schoolers (AMC 8). The AMC 8 competition is designed for middle school students and provides opportunities for children to demonstrate their knowledge and ability in the area of mathematics. The Mathematical Association of America, sponsor of the event, wants to increase interest in mathematics and develop problem solving skills through a friendly and fun competition. The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute multiple choice examination designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem solving skills.



The district is extremely proud of the four students placed in the competition. Leo Lin (grade 8) and Russell Platt (grade 7) received a bronze medal for their score. Lilah Lindemann (grade 8) received a silver medal for receiving the second highest score in the middle school. The top score and gold medal was earned by Christopher Barton (grade 7), who not only received top score at North Country Road, but also received an honor roll certificate for scoring in the top five percent nationally. Congratulations to all involved!

## MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

OAKs and OARs abounded at **Miller Place High School** earlier this winter, and no, we're not talking about trees and canoe paddles. OAK (Outstanding Acts of Kindness) and OAR (Outstanding Academic Recognition) are two district awards that are given to distinguished students to recognize acts of kindness and exemplary academic achievement.

This year's recipients of the OAR award are Alexis Biscardi, Dylan Flerx, Charlotte Gann, Ann Marie McNulty, Lily Newman and Emma Walsh. To qualify for an OAR award, students must be academic leaders to their peers and have overcome unique educational challenges. Key to winning this award is a student's ability to meet long-term goals or show significant growth and improvement over a period of time.



This year's recipients of the OAK award are Tristan Bailey, Jake Froese, David Miekley, Mary Rozensky, Jack Soldano, and Christopher Waldemar. To qualify for the OAK award, someone has to witness a student committing an act of kindness and selflessness and nominate that student for the award. A student's behavior results in an OAK award because the student is seen acting in an especially kind and gracious way without expecting anything in return.

Congratulations to all 12 students who represent and uphold the most important values of the district.

# MUSIC NEWS



High school Vocal Jazz performing at LADSBS



High school student participants in Mid Island Band Festival



High school Instrumental Jazz performing at LADSBS



Secondary LISFA students with composer/conductor/actress Soon Hee Newbold



Fourth-graders from LADSBS attending the PEAK Festival



District student and professor Velvet Browns attending SCMEA Day of Tuba



District students attending SCMEA Day of Horn



NCRMS sixth-graders attending the Long Island String Festival



Pep band at basketball game

# ATHLETIC NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALL-COUNTY PANTHERS!

- Alex Constantis – Wrestling
- Kyle Klein – Wrestling
- James Rado – Wrestling
- Tom Cirrito – Boys Basketball
- Angie Guevara – Girls Indoor Track
- Danelle Rose – Girls Indoor Track
- Jacklyn Spaccaferno – Girls Indoor Track
- Henry Shemet – Boys Swimming



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**MARCH 27**

Board of Education Meeting  
8:00 p.m. @ MPHS

**APRIL 17**

Board of Education Meeting  
8:00 p.m. @ MPHS

**APRIL 19-26**

Spring Recess  
All Schools Closed

**MAY 7**

Budget Hearing  
8 p.m. @ MPHS

**MAY 21**

**BUDGET VOTE**  
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. @ NCRMS

## MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

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

Noelle Dunlop, *Trustee* • Keith Frank, *Trustee* • Lisa Reitan, *Trustee* • Sarah Shaljian, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano