

Miller Place

Spring 2019

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS COME TOGETHER



for Down Syndrome Awareness Day

When the students and faculty in the Miller Place School District show school spirit, they don the royal red and blue. The district's colors unite students as one, and the colors are a representation of the pride students have in all that they do. However, as a district, we also understand that sometimes we must unite for causes that go beyond our schools' doors. This spring the students at North Country Road Middle School did just that by wearing blue and gold in solidarity with Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

The NCRMS Student Government partnered with the Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation to recognize Down Syndrome Awareness Day throughout the middle school on March 21st. The most powerful image from the day was students wearing blue and yellow outfits and crazy socks to symbolize the cause. Students started the day by immersing themselves in an educational video regarding Down syndrome. The video educated students on the disability and it gave each child a better understanding of the challenges that are inherent with the disability. Bracelets were also sold during lunch periods to raise money to donate to the Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation.

The district is proud of the North Country Road Middle School Student Government for their hard work to organize Down Syndrome Awareness Day. Initiatives such as these are integral to character development education at the district. When our students understand that not all children are afforded the same opportunities as they are, it can inspire them to make the world a better place.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The late spring is a unique time of year. Classrooms have been buzzing with student activities and events as we prepare for the end of the school year. This time of year offers us a chance to reflect on the exceptional school year it has been. Elementary students have expanded their foundational skills, middle

and high schoolers have prepared for Regents and final examinations, and our high school seniors are eagerly awaiting their year-end events. We may be sad to say goodbye to students that we have watched grow over the last 13 years, but we are thrilled to anticipate what our graduating seniors will accomplish in the years to come. Whether it is joining the military, attending college, pursuing a career, or learning a trade, our graduating seniors have experiences in these disciplines and we expect they will continue to build upon the skills they have learned through our curriculum.

Many wonderful accomplishments and achievements have occurred over the last nine months. Our students continued their acts of selflessness throughout our schools via our character education programs. In addition, during the 2018-2019 school year, we witnessed students continuing to place an emphasis on positively impacting our school community by raising money for charity, coming together to raise awareness of ALS, discussing the need for cancer research or simply striving to make a positive difference in someone's life.

Thank you to our school community who made their voice heard at the polls by approving the 2019-20 school year budget. We thank you for your continued support of our programs and we look forward to welcoming back our students and staff in September for the 2019-2020 school year.

Wishing you a restful and safe summer,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank the community for approving the proposed budget for the 2019-2020 school year. District residents provided valuable feedback at all budget meetings and hearings; as a result, the budget reflects a plan for the upcoming school year that maintains the standard of excellence across all district schools while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

Our work is not yet done. Preparation for the 2019-2020 school year will continue into the summer as our administrators and teachers work tirelessly to refine the curriculum and their programs. Parents and guardians should also be mindful of their roles in the educational process. The summer is a time for relaxation and enjoyment, but that time should also include reading and other brain exercises that ensure students' minds are stimulated throughout the summer months.

This month also marks the last few weeks we will be spending with our graduating seniors. Their academic achievements, extracurricular talents, service to community, and overall excellence deserve our highest praise. We know there are equally talented underclassmen, middle schoolers and primary students who look to the seniors as leaders. These younger students look at their role models and see many of them beginning their paths to future careers. Kindergartners and high school juniors alike are motivated, inspired and ready to fill the Class of 2019's shoes.

I invite you to read about all of the wonderful happenings across our district in this spring newsletter and I also encourage you to continue to provide feedback to our administrators and be a champion of our schools.

Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa
Board of Education President

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Things got a little mystical at **Andrew Muller Primary School (AMPS)** this spring! The theme of this year's P.A.R.P. (Parents As Reading Partners) week was Fairy Tales, Folk Tales and Fables and both the students and staff at AMPS embraced this magical theme in many unique ways. To kick off the week, the P.A.R.P. mascot, a court jester, helped set the mood, and students were read *The Jolly Postman* as a prelude to the literature that would follow. Classics such as *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *Cinderella* were all included. Most of us are familiar with how these stories go, but you might be surprised to know there are alternate versions. That's right—students read these stories from the main characters' point of views as well as versions from the villains' point of views. Students wrote about what an actual hero is and learned to understand different perspectives.

P.A.R.P. week was full of fun activities. Students were involved in math, mapping and maker space activities to complement the books they read. Parents As Reading Partners week would not have been possible without help from parents as well as the community. Parent volunteers helped the P.A.R.P. committee organize much of the activities and programs and numerous community organizations facilitated awesome events. Thank you, all!



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL



Lions, tigers, and bears—oh my! **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School** students recently encountered all three and many more on a recent trip to the Bronx Zoo. Although our *Wizard of Oz* reference depicts a frightening situation for the characters in the movie, the educational extravaganza to the zoo was anything but. Throughout the day, the kids saw dozens of species of wildlife as they strolled through exhibits. Seeing a lion up close was certainly a thrilling experience for the students, but the kids also spent a large part of the day meeting with wildlife experts to learn about the animals and their respective biospheres. Each student certainly went home that night equipped with a better understanding of biology. Everyone left the Bronx Zoo with an understanding that our Earth is in danger and we must do all we can to protect it. The students also experienced exhibits, infographics, and videos at the zoo that detailed the alarming endangerment of certain species throughout the world. After all, it will be up to today's kids to protect the Earth of tomorrow.

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

The writing potential of our middle school class is unlimited. **North Country Road Middle School (NCRMS)** recently sent Brandy Moeller (grade eight) as a student volunteer for this year's Authors Unlimited event. Brandy was one of many students across Long Island who applied to be a teen volunteer to help out at the event. At Authors Unlimited, the volunteers assisted the authors with breakout sessions and writing workshops for young writers in grades 5 through 12.

Whether you were an attendee of the event, a volunteer, or even one of the participating authors, everyone walked away from the event more confident in their writing. Brandy is the first NCRMS student to be selected as a volunteer for Authors Unlimited since Ronnie Farrell, school librarian began supporting the event. It is the duty of the Miller Place School District to unlock the true potentials of each and every district student and in this case, Brandy's writing potential turned out to be unlimited. Well done!



MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

The Miller Place School District is committed to providing a breadth of opportunities for its students, especially the kind that prepare students for college and careers. The district is continuously focused on bringing innovative technology learning experiences to students so that they may excel in a 21st-century world. In conjunction with this mission, **Miller Place High School (MPHS)** partnered with Stony Brook University's (SBU) Institute for STEM Education (i-STEM) program to give high school students first-hand experience in an advanced science lab.

SBU's STEM Teaching Centers—eight of them located on the SBU campus—provide a diverse array of learning experiences for high school students covering numerous scientific disciplines. When MPHS students spent time in the SBU lab, they designed illuminated electronic devices with clear acrylic materials, as well as optical intrusion detection systems. For the aspiring biotech professionals, there was an opportunity to build biochemical models using a 3D printer and create electrical energy using bacteria in soil. The students also learned about the ecosystems of their hometowns by studying plant growth on the North Shore vs. South Shore of Long Island. Ultimately, the i-STEM program enhanced students' understandings of scientific concepts and potentially piqued their interest in pursuing a STEM related career.



MUSIC & ART NEWS



Miller Place High School Tri-M Honor Society students mentoring at North Country Road Middle School for the upcoming NYSSMA solo and ensemble adjudications.



Miller Place High School Woodwind Quintet playing at the high school's music showcase.



HS Instrumental Jazz at The Jazz Loft.



Miller Place High School SCMEA All-County jazz musicians.



Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School 5th grade Band performance at LI Ducks game.



SCMEA Division 3 Orchestra participants. Left to right: Kyle Bruno, Jodie Cui, Giovanna Kallin, Ivy Newman, Liliana Bosshard, Zoe Bussewitz, Will Dunlop and Muchael Luo.



The 2019 MPHS Art Show was a huge success! The show featured the work of Lily Newman (MPHS Senior), who was a Long Island Best Young Artist Award Winner and had her work featured at the Heckscher Museum.

ATHLETIC NEWS

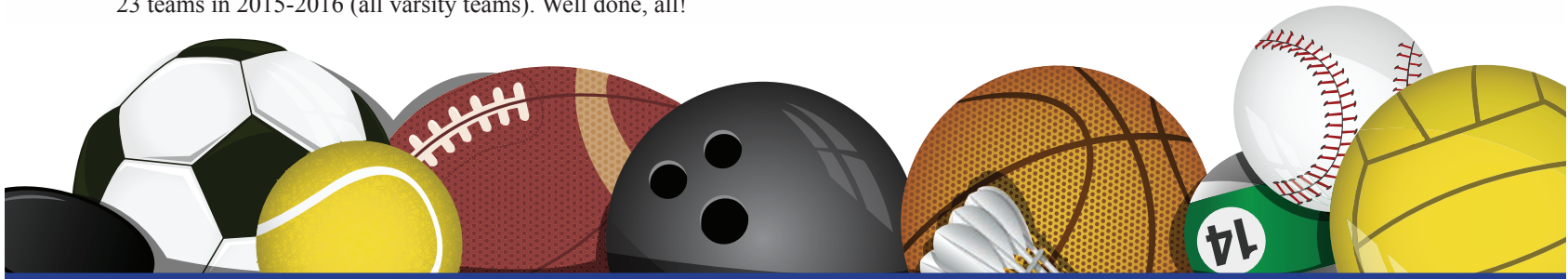
THE OUTSTANDING PANTHERS

Our Panthers give an outstanding effort during all periods of the school day, including gym class. Four district students were recently recognized as outstanding students in the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS AHPERD) Student Award Program. Madelana Vomero and Dylan Riegel (Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School) and Josh Kopleman and Brooke McCormick (North Country Road Middle School) were nominated by their schools for outstanding effort, leadership and perseverance demonstrated in physical education. The four students were honored at the NYS AHPERD Suffolk Zone annual dinner.



THE ACADEMIC DYNASTY

To qualify as a scholar athlete team, a varsity team GPA must collectively average 90 or above. This spring, six out of eight Miller Place High School sports teams qualified as scholar athlete teams. This brings the total scholar athlete teams for the 2018-2019 school year to 21, which qualifies Miller Place High School to be a Scholar Athlete School. This marks the fourth consecutive year the high school has achieved this status, with 23 teams earning scholar athlete in 2017-2018 (all varsity teams), 22 teams in 2016-2017, and 23 teams in 2015-2016 (all varsity teams). Well done, all!



DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 24 - Students last day of school

June 26 - 6:00 p.m.
MPHS graduation ceremony

July 2 - 6:00 p.m. @ MPHS
Board of Education organizational meeting

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