

Miller Place

Fall 2017

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

Welcome Back!



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The start of the 2017-2018 school year has gotten off to an incredible start, and the holiday season is right around the corner. Students across all grade levels continue to make us proud in the classroom and throughout the community. It's inspiring to see the collaboration and commitment so many students have demonstrated for their educations. Beyond their hard work and achievements, it truly is a privilege to see so many young people in the Miller Place School District community rise to the occasion as they strive for their next milestone, whether it's a moving-up ceremony or high school graduation. Their work has been fantastic and I am particularly excited to see what the rest of this year will bring.

Our Board of Education, administration, educators and community have made it a priority to provide all students with a safe and engaging learning environment. Research and results have shown that student success increases when educators have better opportunities to provide hands-on support for students. It's clear that every student learns at his or her own pace, so educators need to be empowered to assist students and guide them to achieve. Combined with incorporating cutting-edge technology and providing hands-on, experiential opportunities for learning, Miller Place School District students develop a deeper understanding of their classroom curriculum. Teachers and administrators in all of our school buildings are collaborating every day to keep teaching consistent from one grade to the next and one school to another, while building on students' individual talents.

We're already to our fourth full year of full-day kindergarten at Andrew Muller Primary School. Ensuring more time for early childhood instruction will continue to lead to higher student achievement. By entering first grade better prepared, academic results will continue to trend upwards and students will have a stronger groundwork for future success.

On the opposite end of the District, we have all been focused on ensuring college and career readiness upon high school graduation. A well-rounded education is vital for students to compete on the global, 21st-century job market. To that end, teachers, parents and students must continue to work together and strengthen the home-school connection. By supporting students, keeping them on track and providing them with those strong learning environments, they will continue to excel and thrive whether it's in college, joining the military or at the start of their career.

As you will read throughout this newsletter—and I am sure you have heard about regularly this year—Miller Place School District students have made significant accomplishments, not just in school but throughout all of the Miller Place and Sound Beach communities. In recent years we have had much to be proud of, and this year should be no different. Our students are inspired, hardworking and dedicated. I can't wait to watch them make an impact and mature into the future of this community.

Wishing each of you a wonderful holiday season,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano, *Superintendent of Schools*

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

With the holiday season just a few weeks away, there is an opportunity to reflect on the hard work and achievements of so many students across the District. By establishing high-quality learning environments, students have excelled in the classroom. This is in large part thanks to our incredible educators who constantly collaborate and refine their methods to best connect with students. This combined with parents support at home makes for a great partnership.

Every student learns differently, whether it's the style or pace. By ensuring all educators work together, teaching has been kept consistent from one classroom, grade and school building to the next, making for a successful educational journey from AMPS to MPHS.

As we're already so close to the midway point of the school year, there is no question students and educators are hard at work. Between classroom projects, extracurriculars, sports, art and music, there's something for every student in Miller Place. I'm especially proud that we continue to create opportunities for students to get involved, discover their passion and learn outside of the classroom to thrive as well-rounded young people. I've said it before: Our schools are the heart of our community, and we are very fortunate that our teachers, administrators, and staff are here for us when needed.

Looking ahead, each of our buildings administrators is beginning to prepare for the 2018-2019 budget season. Support from the community is—and has always been—important to develop a budget that supports key initiatives while keeping the taxpayer impact to a minimum. By developing a responsible budget, the Board continues to work to ensure that we again remain under the state mandated property tax cap without compromising the needs of all of our students.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I am extremely excited for the rest of the school year. I invite members of the community to join us for upcoming budget hearings and workshops. Your input is vital, and I look forward to all that we can accomplish together the rest of this school year.

Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa, *Board of Education President*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 AP SCHOLARS



*Congratulations to the following students
who have achieved the distinction of AP Scholars:*

Seated from left to right: Jack Kelly, Stephanie Yun, Clara Dunlop, Leah Dreiling, Allison Mooney, Nicole Cirrito, Charles Rock and Jivan Ramjisingh. Standing from left to right: Sean White, Jake Angelo, Matthew Buscemi, Victoria Calandrino, Moksha Mehra, Gillian Cordes, Gianna DeGiorgio-Liguori, Stephen Lombardi, Coleton Reitan and Kevin Slavin. Not present for picture: Brett Burton.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLAR



*Congratulations to Clara Dunlop!
Clara has achieved the
distinction of National Merit
Commended Scholar!*

*Clara is pictured with Sean White, Assistant
Principal/Director of Guidance, and Kevin
Slavin, Principal of Miller Place High School.*

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year Andrew Muller Primary School has implemented a combined character education and physical education component. On alternating weeks, half of the first and second graders will be participating in a 30-minute Wellness/Yoga activity. The concept of the program is for students to learn to regulate their emotions using mindfulness techniques. Through discussion and exercise, students are learning that their brains are in control of their actions. While young children tend to be impulsive, AMPS students are learning that by slowing down their breathing they can re-focus and make thoughtful choices about their actions. While one half of the class is participating in a wellness activity, the other half remains in the classroom with their teacher. This provides an opportunity for more individualized instruction. The Wellness/Yoga Program is being run by one of Miller Place's new physical education teachers, Jessica Scheno. Ms. Scheno has come to Miller Place with experience teaching mindfulness to young children.



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL

It was a fun and exciting Spirit Week at LADSBS! The majority of staff and students participated in one if not all of the school-wide festivities. The week started with Pajama Day, then Wacky Wednesday, onto Character Day, and finally School Spirit Day. On School Spirit Day, students and staff wore as much Miller Place garb as possible. The culminating event of the week was the traditional parade from the Miller Place Fire House to the High School football field. The mist and sporadic rain did not deter our trusty marchers; this year's Homecoming Parade had the highest student attendance of all time! It was a fantastic community event that the entire administration, staff, and student body will be sure to remember! Not only was it Spirit Week, but it was also Fire Prevention Week. The Miller Place and Sound Beach Fire Departments visited students for their annual assembly. This year, all students in grades 3-5 were provided a keychain whistle-light. This gift can alert the police, fire department, and/or EMS both visually and audibly if a rescue is needed.



NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

North Country Road Middle School is a busy place year-round, but summer 2017 brought additional activity that has enhanced our programs in every grade. NCRMS' blueprint was updated, specifically the Library Media Resource Center, to make our school more functional with today's academic purpose in mind. Space was expanded and updated; new technology

was added, including new laptops and content to provide more opportunities; furniture, including group tables and comfortable chairs, was installed; and the existing computer lab was relocated to a much larger space. All of the physical changes have been accompanied by a commitment to the MakerSpace movement, which involves creating spaces that support creativity and innovation. Students have the freedom to design, engineer, fabricate, create, build and collaborate. An example is a collection of Ozobots, small smart toy robots that allow students to code, play, create and connect the physical and digital worlds. The movement started on a smaller scale last year, but it has taken off the first few weeks of school! A special thank you to Mrs. Ronnie Farrell, who has led the MakerSpace movement in the middle school and expanded the initiative to opportunities in our new Library Media Resource Center.



MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Miller Place High School students recently collected more than \$9,000 to support cancer research during a spook-tacular Halloween-themed dance—a Monster Mash at MPHS! The dance was held in memory of Joshua Faithfull, a Miller Place student who passed away in March 2017 following a rare malignant melanoma of the brain and spinal cord. During the dance, students were able to decorate pumpkins, participate in a bean bag toss, take part in face painting, and much more. Students also raffled a Nintendo Switch, tickets to a New York Rangers game, and a spa gift card to help raise money to support cancer victims. All of the proceeds from the event were donated to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



Homecoming 2017



On Saturday, October 14 a capacity crowd of more than 1,000 was on hand to watch the Miller Place Panthers earn a hard-fought 21-14 victory over the Shoreham-Wading River Wildcats on Homecoming. Miller Place found themselves down 14 points with 3:30 left in the second quarter, but JR Sebastian Cannon scored two rushing TD's in the final minutes to even the game heading into halftime.

A defensive battle ensued during the third quarter, but the relentless Panthers controlled field position most of the half and eventually scored on a five-yard TD pass from Senior Anthony Seymour to Junior Tom Nealis for the final margin of victory.

Spirit Week was also a focus for school and community service. During the week, students were involved in raising \$9,000 for Memorial Sloan Kettering on behalf of Josh Faithfull. During halftime Student Government Supervisor Dr. Ron Skolnick and Executive Council President Jake Angelo presented Mrs. Faithfull with the donation check in name of her son.



Music News



Miller Place High School guest artist Dimitri Methany.



Pictured left-right, Miller Place's NYSCAME All-County Musicians: Brianne Luise, Luke Reidel, Jonathan Hart, Stephen Lombardi, Emily Andriano, Nicole Volovar, Meagan Rowburrey



The Miller Place pep band taking part in the Homecoming parade.



Andrew Muller Primary School students



North Country Road Middle School trumpet students working with guest artist Dimitri Methany.

Board of Education Student Representative

Jake Angelo, a senior at Miller Place High School, will be graduating in June 2018 in the top-10 percent of his class. Starting as early as eighth grade, Jake has taken the most challenging courses available to him. He is looking forward to attending college next fall where he can study political science with a focus in international relations. He currently serves as the President of Student Government and is a member of Service Club and Yearbook Club. Due to his interest in current events and politics, Jake co-founded our Current Events Club. He is also a member of Miller Place athletics, running Cross Country, as well as winter and spring track since ninth grade.



EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND DELAYED OPENINGS

In case of adverse weather and/or road conditions, District schools may be closed or delayed by two or three hours, depending on the severity of the weather. Decisions about early morning closings are made as soon as possible, and residents are advised via the following radio and television stations:

News 12 Long Island (Cablevision) • WALK 97.5 FM • WBLI 106.1 FM

Additionally, the District will use the ConnectEd service to contact parents via a mass notification telephone system. Emergency closings and delay information is posted on the District website or residents may call (631) 474-2700.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **November 22**
Early Dismissal Drill: All Schools Dismiss
15 Minutes Early
- **November 23-24**
Thanksgiving Recess: Schools Closed
- **December 13**
Board of Education Meeting:
8:00 p.m. at MPHS
- **December 25-January 1**
Winter Recess: Schools Closed
- **January 15**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Schools Closed
- **January 31**
Board of Education Meeting: 8:00 p.m.
at MPHS

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* • Jake Angelo, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano