

Miller Place

Fall 2016

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us



NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT Miller Place Summer Camps

Summer is a chance for students to recharge after a challenging school year, but Miller Place students were given an opportunity to stay engaged through diverse camps organized on school grounds. With interest from many students of all ages, the District was excited to offer new music, art and theater camps over the summer months. Supported by the Miller Place Friends of the Arts, Fine Art Camp—including music, art and theater camps—was organized into four sessions based on grade level (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12). Elementary students also participated in STEM camps offered through MadScience of Long Island.

The music, art, theater, and STEM camps provided a comprehensive fine arts and STEM experiences that allowed students to explore their creativity, make new friends and stay constructively engaged during the summer months. During art camp, children in the K-2 and 3-5 sessions explored creative experiences in printmaking and collage. To provide a hands-on experience, middle-school students took on acrylic painting, and high school students' workshopped and practiced advanced oil painting techniques.

Two weeks of music camp included a diverse program ranging from instrumental music to choral activities. Students explored creative movement; had an opportunity to play instruments such as the recorder and ukulele; and participated in various vocal exercises, musical games and singing activities. The drama portion of camp welcomed 25 enthusiastic students in grades 6-8. A triumph for the theater program, this intensive two-week camp including dancing, singing and acting workshops for middle school students. The camp culminated with an exciting performance of two popular Broadway numbers. At the MadScience STEM camps students studied concepts of flight including the science of aerodynamics during the "Flight Academy" and the study of investigative science in the "Detective Academy."

Summer camps are an exciting way that Miller Place students can participate in educational activities during the summer while having fun with friends in safe learning environments. The District was thrilled by the enthusiasm displayed by students and parents alike, and we look forward to offering more camps in summer 2017. For more information about summer camps at Miller Place, please visit our website at <http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/>.



*Keep up with what is happening in our schools by visiting
MillerPlaceintheMedia.com*

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Students are in full swing across the Miller Place School District!

We've gotten off to a fantastic start so far, and we're already at the holiday season. Time is truly flying. At all grade levels, students are working diligently in the classroom, on our athletic fields and throughout the Miller Place community.

Their hard work is commendable, and I for one am extremely excited to see their achievements over the rest of this year.

By providing students with a safe and engaging environment, educators have better opportunities to support students throughout their educational journeys. We know that every student learns at his or her own pace. By incorporating cutting-edge technology and providing hands-on experiences for learning, students are able to have a deeper understanding of the curriculum and excel.

It's hard to believe this year is the third year of full-day kindergarten at AMPS. Research has shown that more time for early childhood instruction will lead to better results for students. By entering first grade better prepared, academic results will continue to trend upwards.

Educators are focused on ensuring college and career readiness upon high school graduation. It's imperative that teachers, parents and students work together so that MPHS graduates are ready to compete on the global level in college or on the job market. To that end, teachers and administrators in all of our school buildings are collaborating to keep teaching consistent from one grade to the next and one school to another, while building on students' individual talents and providing opportunities for hands-on experiential learning.

As you will read throughout this newsletter, Miller Place students have made significant accomplishments so far this school year. We have had much to be proud of in recent years, and this year is another opportunity to pursue even greater achievements. I look forward to watching our students excel, make an impact and inspire us to achieve even greater heights.

Wishing each of you a wonderful holiday season,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano,
Superintendent of Schools

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

The beginning of the holiday season is just weeks away, and I'm proud of the work students across Miller Place have done so far this school year. Educators and students alike are acclimated and engaged in their learning environments, making strides each day in the classrooms and in the many extracurricular activities that are offered both in District and throughout the entire community. 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 2017-2018 budget season. Support from the community has been paramount in developing and approving the District's initiatives. This year, the Board is, as always, committed to fiscal responsibility with the best interests of our entire community in mind. By developing a responsible and prudent budget, the Board works to ensure that we once again remain under the state mandated property tax cap without compromising the needs of all of our students or their ability to achieve their full potentials. It is our priority and responsibility to continue providing our students

with the education they deserve while keeping taxes to a minimal impact on residents.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I am extremely excited for the rest of the school year. Working together, students across the District have achieved much for which we are to be proud this year, and I expect continued excellence from our school community. However, there is much more to achieve before graduation and moving-up ceremonies at the end of the school year.

I invite you, members of the community, to continue to join us for upcoming budget hearings and workshops. Your input is an important and necessary part of this process. An engaged community is a valuable asset, 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 2016 AP SCHOLARS



Congratulations to the Miller Place High School AP Scholar students: Row 1: Emily Taylor, Cassandra Sperl, Brianne Ledda, Charles Burgner, Jillian Spreckels, Alexandra Leichter and Kathryn Contrelli • Row 2: Robert Godberson, Natalie Rash, Geraldine Luglio, Maximilian Braun, Alexa Schwerdtfeger, Germaine Harbaugh, Krishna Kumar, James Sottilo, Nicholas Walerstein, Jaclyn Barreca, Bobbi Battey, Emily Sammartino, Matthew Leen • Row 3: William Sussman, Raymond Klotz, Aditya Mehra, Michael Cirrito, Sean Reagan, Arthur Sarkissyan, Kristin Nappi, Jonathan Beers, Julia Ruzek, Allison Cipriani, Jessica LaFontaine, Issabella Finamore, Daniel Sexton and Rebecca Lauria • Not present for picture: David Argento, Claudia Campanella, Maria Campo, Michael Chmiel, Julianna Dolinski, Danielle Jimenez, Ryan Letterio, and Danielle Plunkett.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS



Pictured are Sean Reagan, National Merit Commended Scholar and William Sussman, National Merit Semi-Finalist.

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

This spring, the Andrew Muller Primary School's (AMPS) School Improvement Team introduced an optional summer reading program, which aligned with the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS) summer reading program. The program was developed to keep students connected to books, foster students reading for pleasure, maintain a learning routine and initiate less summer reading regression. The students filled out BINGO cards to keep track of how much they read and earned prizes for filling in their card. An assembly was held in the spring to kick-off the program. Both the Comsewogue and Port Jefferson libraries provided motivational presentations, and a summer reading link was placed on the AMPS home page with all the information needed to take part in the program, along with book suggestions and links to the libraries.

In the fall, participants were rewarded by receiving a certificate, attending an in-school celebration and having their names announced and photos displayed in school. At the celebration, prizes were distributed, including free scholastic book certificates, passes to Finks Farm and tickets to see plays at Theatre Three. Participants also played games and took photo booth pictures. We are very excited that in our first year more than 60 incoming first and second grade students volunteered and committed to reading all summer long! We hope to have even more students participate next year and look forward to this fun summer activity expansion!



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL

The third Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS) Summer Reading Celebration was a tremendous success! Created by the School Improvement Team (SIT), the celebration was designed to encourage and incentivize students to read over the summer months. Research has shown that reading over the summer months helps prevent regression of individualized reading skills. Late last school year, LADSBS students, along with incoming students from AMPS, met for an assembly so that all students in grades three-five would be able to participate. Representatives from the Comsewogue and Port Jefferson public libraries were in attendance and provided motivational presentations. As students prepared for their summers, they were properly motivated to keep reading! This October, LADSBS held its annual Summer Reading Celebration. Students started in the gym, where a group picture was taken of the approximately 135 students. After the picture, names were pulled for each of this year's raffles, ranging from a family pass at Finks Farm to an iPad Mini! Afterward, students were escorted to the two areas on the playground. The large group was split; one group worked on "concentration puzzles" that created book titles through images, and the second group had time to explore and play on all of the new exercise and playground equipment. The groups then swapped locations before being dismissed for the day. We're excited to partner with AMPS to continue to grow the program, promote summer reading and help Miller Place students excel in the classroom!



NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

The beginning of the school year for the North Country Road Middle School (NCRMS) felt more like a sprint than a light jog, as some special events were scheduled earlier in the year to engage our student body in some exciting experiences. Students have settled into the routine of their class schedules, proper navigation of the hallways and opening their lockers without assistance, and class expectations have been shared with students and parents of our school community. Student orientation assemblies were provided to discuss proper protocol and extracurricular opportunities. Please refer to our NCR FYI page that is accessible on our school website, which is updated weekly to provide timely information.



After a sturdy foundation was established, it was a perfect time to celebrate our Miller Place community pride during Spirit Week in late September. The week that leads to our Homecoming weekend is filled with excitement and many displays of unity across NCRMS. Spirit Day on Friday is the culmination, during which time members of grade six wore red, grade seven wore white and eighth grade students wore blue. All of our school colors were represented, along with many Miller Place athletic jerseys. This year's weather challenged the participant's resolve, but we were equal to the task. NCRMS students marched and represented the middle school with pride.



In late September, seventh graders visited Sadderly Landing at Mount Sinai Harbor and Cedar Beach to evaluate the health of our local ecosystem. They also learned about the significance of our local wetlands. Students learned various methods to preserve this valuable natural resource, and they accrued data to inform their recommendations. Groups of students measured the turbidity levels in the harbor, which provides the clarity of the water or how much sediment is included in the sample. High sediment would affect the dissolved oxygen in the water, which in turn affects the local wildlife. Students were also able to visit the shellfish hatchery, which is designed to grow shellfish to seed waterfronts all over Long Island to clean the water and help the commercial shellfish industry. Since the program has started, there have been some improvements to the water quality in the area. It's a great opportunity

for NCRMS students to take part in this hands-on approach to learning about their local environment.

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Miller Place High School students will participate in an intensive day-long training to become Natural Helpers. Natural Helpers operates on the belief that whenever someone is confronted with an issue or concern in his or her life, the first person they usually turn to for help is a peer. Participating students were nominated through an anonymous, school-wide survey, in which students wrote names of two peers they are most comfortable speaking with about a challenge or concern in their life. The training encompasses a number of team-building activities to learn how to break down barriers between students, confront labeling and stereotyping, and develop empathy for the many challenges students face. Additionally, all participants are challenged to step outside their comfort zones and realize how all students have their own "stories." The Natural Helpers meet bi-weekly to discuss peer issues, the climate throughout the school, how they can help the situation and where to direct those struggling for additional help and assistance.



Miller Place Homecoming

Thanks to all students, parents, teachers and community members for your support this Homecoming. Your dedication to Miller Place makes all of us proud. Take a look at some great shots from the festivities!



ATHLETIC NEWS

- Boys' Varsity Soccer held its annual ALS Fundraiser this fall, defeating Islip High School under the lights by a score of 2-1. Alex Naimo and Matt Molinaro scored one goal each, while Nick Evola and Matt Hirdt had one assist each. Goalie Kyle Korade also made four saves and more than \$1,800 was raised to benefit ALS research!
- Girls' Varsity Field Hockey have a 13-1 record in Division III. At Homecoming, they shutout the Warriors of Comsewogue by a score of 4-0. Arianna Esposito scored two goals and Nicole Beck and Hailey Duchnowski scored one goal each.



- Varsity Football lost a hard-fought game to Babylon 29-25 during Homecoming. Midway through the season, the Panthers are still in strong playoff contention with a 3-1 overall record. Tyler Ammirato led the Panthers with four touchdowns and 301 total yards on the day.
- Boys' Cross Country has raced to an undefeated 4-0 record in League VI.
- Girls' Varsity Tennis has compiled a 9-1 League VI record in match play.
- Girls' Volleyball defeated Port Jefferson 3-0 during Homecoming Week!



Music Updates



The Miller Place Pep Band!



NYSCAME All-County student-musicians from Miller Place!



Miller Place student-musicians performed in Europe with an American Music Abroad program.



All-State student-musicians from Miller Place!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 23-25: Schools Closed, Thanksgiving
- December 14: Board of Education Meeting, 8:00 p.m. @MPHS
- December 23-January 2: Schools Closed, Winter Recess
- January 16: Schools Closed, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 25: Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. @MPHS
- February 20-24: Schools Closed, Mid-Winter Recess
- February 28: Board of Education Meeting, 8:00 p.m. @MPHS

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.

Miller Place School's 2016 Board of Education Student Representative



The Board of Education Student Representative for the 2016-2017 school year is Julianna Dolinski. Julianna is a bright student, highly involved throughout the school community. She participates in community service at the Bideawee Animal Shelter and throughout our schools during Safe Halloween, food drives and homecoming preparation. She is a member and team captain of the varsity girls' tennis team, participating as a starter since the seventh grade, as well as the manager and official scorekeeper of the JV boys' basketball team. Julianna is also a member of the National Honor Society, National Foreign Language Honor Society, Yearbook Club and Mathletes, in addition to being selected as the school representative for RYLA's three-day leadership program.

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*
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Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano