

Miller Place

Spring 2017

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us



SCIENCE LEARNING AND INQUIRY LABS



Educators have long been proponents of hands-on learning. Providing students with experiential opportunities for learning in addition to books and instructional technology is undoubtedly beneficial. This year, Miller Place's two elementary schools, Andrew Muller Primary School (AMPS) and Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS), have taken advantage of opportunities for experiential learning in the science inquiry rooms. The rooms are equipped with materials needed to conduct experiments on topics related to the updated New York State Science and Engineering practices. The science room concept was conceived to help students and teachers meet these standards. The rooms also have places to record observations and document cameras in order to provide shared observation experiences.

When students are engaged through interactive lesson plans, they immerse themselves into the curriculum instead of memorizing notes for an exam. This year, when learning about interactions between objects, students were able to see a magnet attract a paperclip and a lightbulb light up by connecting to a battery through copper wire. These basic scientific interactions are challenging concepts to comprehend through renderings in a textbook only. But with encouragement and room for trial and error, students can see the instant they stimulate the interaction between a conductor and receiver. Additional topics are covered in-depth in the Science rooms, including weather and plants.

Cooperative learning tables give students a chance to not only work together, but learn together. Working together, students are able to help solve problems and in many cases teach each other during the process. Cooperative learning also develops core communication skills between elementary school students, skills that become increasingly valuable as they advance in their education and toward careers. To that end, cooperative and experiential learning is vital for college and career readiness. Students have more opportunities to experience subject matter in ways a textbooks or technology alone can't provide, ideally inspiring some students to consider new goals—including in the STEAM fields.

With new state science curriculum changes on the horizon, Miller Place adopted these new classrooms to ensure students are provided with the resources needed to succeed. The science curriculum in New York State hasn't been changed since 1996, so educators agree that the changes are positive. As testing shifts away from memorization toward a holistic grasp of the subject matter, experiential learning opportunities such as those occurring within the Science rooms are all the more valuable.

Students now eagerly wait for their "Science Room" day and teachers continue to look forward to providing students with experiences in scientific practice mixed with fun "hands-on" learning.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!
May 16, 2017 • 6 AM to 9 PM • NCRMS

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The weather is getting warmer, and students throughout the District are hard at work preparing for required assessments and final exams. Likewise, our Board of Education and administration are preparing the 2017-2018 budget for the annual budget vote on May 16.

With the summer months ahead of us, it's a reminder that graduation and moving-up ceremonies are right around the corner. As we proudly watch our high school graduating class of 2017 move on to college and careers, it's inspiring to watch our elementary school students move up to their next building and the challenges ahead. I look forward every year to seeing our students achieve their goals and also set new goals for the next year, pushing themselves to work harder, think outside the box and reach new heights.

There are countless reasons to be proud of our students throughout the District this year. Their contributions to our community are commendable as they make strides academically, athletically, artistically and musically.

High school graduates face a competitive college application process and ever-changing job market. It is our responsibility as educators to provide an experience from kindergarten through graduation that helps students find their voice and develop into well-rounded young adults. On the front page of this newsletter you read about how the District has implemented new learning labs in our elementary school buildings. Experiential learning, especially for STEAM education, is vital to prepare students for emerging careers. More important, we encourage our students to innovate, using their own initiative to make an impact.

Preparation for the 2017-18 budget, as with the budget every school year, presents challenges for the District and community. Administrators work closely with the Board of Education and members of the community to ensure our students' academic and extracurricular needs are met, while taking into account our community's finances. I would like to thank you for your participation in the budget process. A well-informed and engaged community is vital to a successful comprehensive budget.

Sincerely,

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

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

As we approach the end of the school year, students and educators are focused on preparing for exams and graduation ceremonies. The Board of Education continues their work with the administration in maintaining the District's current instructional and non-instructional programs, while proposing a 2017-18 budget within the tax cap .61% increase. Our continued collaborative efforts will help to assure success in educating and preparing our young men and women for the future.

The community, teachers, administration and Board of Education all believe that our schools must provide the learning experiences and resources that our students need to succeed in the 21st Century. Therefore, the District continues to implement opportunities for experiential learning and incorporate technology whenever possible. The District welcomes input from our students and community members regarding suggestions to enrich our existing programs.

Community support has been paramount to the District's initiatives and successes in recent years. Residents can be assured that the Board of Education and the District remain committed to two key goals: fiscal responsibility and academic excellence. The proposed 2017-18 budget remains within the state mandated tax cap, keeping taxes low for residents, and maintains the quality education our students deserve. It is incumbent on our schools to remain current regarding educational initiatives, always mindful of our budget limitations.

Public education is being challenged now more than ever. We have all worked very hard to build the strong school district community our children call home. Let's do all we can to keep it strong. Working together as a community, we can continue to watch our students succeed with pride.

It is a privilege to represent our community. On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you to our many community groups who support all of our programs. We are extremely fortunate to live in such a close and tight-knit community with our student's success always at the forefront.

Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa, *Board of Education President*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MILLER PLACE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Every year, students are inducted into the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society in recognition of excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship.

Congratulations to all Miller Place students inducted into these premier academic organizations this school year.

We look forward to your continued success in our classrooms and throughout our community!

MPHS National Honor Society Inductees 2016-17

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Anjelia Altebrando | Emma Courtney | Ariel Heller | Cole McGuire | Christopher Savino |
| Tyler Ammirato | Gianna | Matthew Hirdt | Moksha Mehra | Shaina Schwartzberg |
| Emily Andriano | DeGiorgio-Liguori | Zachary Hymowitz | Caroline Miekley | Alexa Schwerdtfeger |
| Jake Angelo | Kaylee Deleva | Chloe Jung | Matthew Milano | Anthony Seymour |
| Michael Arcidiacono | Kayla Dickinson | Jack Kelly | Michael Moss | Jake Shaffer |
| Nicole Beck | James DiPiersio | Kyle Korade | Brandon Novak | Charles Shemet |
| Hallie Benson | Rachael DiTolla | Emily Lambert | Nicholas Olsen | Meghan Sheridan |
| Kristina Brindley | Leah Dreilinger | Christina LaRocca | Jillian Patterson | Briannagh Smith |
| Brett Burton | Clara Dunlop | Andrew Lauto | Steven Patterson | Amanda Stead |
| Saniya Butt | Nicholas Evola | Stephen Lombardi | Isabella Petriello | Joseph Stocken |
| Jocelyn Byalick | Joshua Faithfull | Gianna Luisa | Jivan Ramjisingh | Hailey Syperski |
| Victoria Calandrino | Lianna Farrell | Romy Magid | Gina Randazzo | Keara Thomson |
| Alexa Carleo | James Gannon | Amanda Maloney | Coleton Reitan | Andreyra Weaver |
| Nicole Cirrito | Emily Gayer | Serena Mangino | Melaina Roberto | Stephanie Yun |
| Kylie Conners | Ryan Grebe | Miguel Martinez | Charles Rock | Lauren Zito |
| Gillian Cordes | Siara Guevara | Cameron Martins | Kelli Ryan | Zoe Zito |
| Taryn Cortes | Alexander Guzowski | | | |

MP National Junior Honor Society

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Brett Adams | Marena Capocci | Oliravan | Katie Marino | Abby Rock |
| Kiera Agic | Stephen Catalina | Eswaramoorthy | James McCarthy | Isabella Romanski |
| Gionna Altebrando | Giovanni Catanzaro | Rebekah Fieldman | Kylie Mistretta | Sean Rowburrey |
| Max Amundsen | Ava Cerato | Nicholas Follo | Brendan Muller | Marissa Ryan |
| Gregory Andriano | Jillian Chamberlin | Alexis Franzoni | Shane Muller | Patrick Serrentino |
| Lauren Barnes | Jason Cirrito | Mei Frawley | Gabriel Neri | Madelyn Shapiro |
| Devin Becker | Alexa Corbin | Cory Gardner | Ivy Newman | Jackson Starr |
| Isabella Bierzinski | Jodie Cui | Angelina Harris | Noah Nieves | Emily Steele |
| Noah Bila | Leif Dalberg | Emily Hoth | Patrick O'Connor | Sydney Stocken |
| Annie Boisseau | Madison Danin | Brenden Jung | Mollie O'Hanlon | Rachel Suarez |
| Ashley Bonitch | Dylan Daube | Marianna Kalin | Brendon Paduano | Irene Sun |
| Andrew Bova | Thomas DeGiorgio- | Hailey Koppelman | Daniel Paesano | Isabel Themann |
| Kyla Bruno | Liguori | Aidan Lake | Steven Panico | Skylar Torres |
| Adrianna Bruschi | Olivia Donnelly | Theresa Lamia | Kendall Parker | Hanna Totillo |
| Isabella Buonovolonta | Kaila Donohue | Natalie Lehmann | Rebecca Piccora | Evelyn Trelfa |
| Blake Buscemi | Aidan Doyle | Matthew LoNigro | Christian Plunkett | Nicole White |
| Zoe Bussewitz | Mackenzie Droll | Meghan Luby | Arianna Portigiano | Jordyn Wynter |
| Amanda Calandrino | William Dunlop | Michael Luo | Shannon Reagan | |
| Tiffany Cantela | | Hope Mari | | |

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

ANDREW MULLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year, every student at the Andrew Muller Primary School will have an opportunity to learn about financial literacy. Peoples' United Bank representatives are visiting the school to meet with classes and discuss aspects of being responsible with money. The New York State social studies standards include a section on economics, and these lessons and visiting speakers are aligned with the curriculum for each grade. Kindergarten students will hear a story about a boy who puts his money in silly places, only to discover later that it is missing. Students will arrange places to keep money from the least safe to the safest. First graders will learn about the difference between needs and wants, why it's important to save and will identify ways to save money. Second grade students will act out purchasing items at a school store. They will learn the characteristics of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, and they will perform basic calculations in spending wisely.



LADDIE A. DECKER SOUND BEACH SCHOOL

Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School participated in a week called "Start with Hello." Daily events were planned February 6-10—snow days on the ninth and tenth forced us to reschedule the last two days a week later on the sixteenth and seventeenth—including wearing school colors, writing positive post-it notes and teacher trivia day! School-wide, every student wrote positive, kind words on a post-it note during snack time in their classrooms and also took a pledge to say "hello" to others. These notes were collected and displayed on two bulletin boards outside the cafeteria. Third grade students from Ms. Tartamella's class also sang a "hello" song incorporating multiple languages for the morning and afternoon announcements, and Peace Team students assisted with spreading the word and helping out with the teacher trivia event. The activities serve as reminders to us all on how simple acts can build a more inclusive and connected environment in our classrooms, school and community!



NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

There is so much to learn on any given day of middle school, but not everything comes from standard curriculum. The element of service has always been a pillar of character development at North Country Road Middle School (NCRMS). There have been a number of opportunities provided by our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), guided by advisors Ronnie Farrell and Rose Ferro. The NCRMS annual blood drive took place in the gymnasium during the month of February, and the efforts of NJHS members resulted in 50 pints of blood donated during the event! Students



worked hard to get the word out to family and friends in reference to the drive, citing the significance of donating blood for those in need. Students were also responsible for helping those that came to the drive, whether by providing direction or ensuring that donors receive the proper nourishment at the hospitality area after donating blood. Other students were there to provide babysitting for a member of the community that wanted to donate, and brought their children to the event. Students also spent some time at Pax Christie, a homeless shelter in Port Jefferson. Students were asked to take part in a number of tasks to help those in need, helping organize the clothing donation room and sorting clothes for distribution. The efforts of our NJHS members were met with gratitude, and it doubled as a learning opportunity for our students. Both of these events provided a product for our community, but also further taught our NJHS members about the value of serving others.

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL



Miller Place High School students were excited to hear from Christopher Pendergast and Dr. Frank Verdone this year. Mr. Pendergast is a Miller Place community member who raised two children that went through our schools, was once a teacher in Northport, and even today continues to educate and have a powerful impact. Nationally recognized for his efforts in patient advocacy and his annual Ride for Life event that raises awareness and funds for ALS, he is a prime example of perseverance and determination. In fact, this being Chris' 20th Anniversary wheelchair ride, he has decided to duplicate his first! He will travel

from Yankee Stadium to Washington D.C. and will speak with Congress about getting more money for ALS research. Dr. Frank Verdone is another Miller Place community member who was diagnosed with ALS and has since retired from optometry. Like Mr. Pendergast, Dr. Verdone has become very enthusiastic in fundraising for ALS research. Both Mr. Pendergast and Dr. Verdone have been a true inspiration to many and exemplify the true meaning of optimism.



ATHLETIC NEWS

WRESTLING



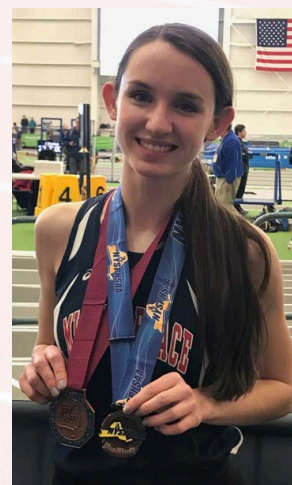
- Overall “dual meet” record of 22-2
- UNDEFEATED Regular Season League 6 Team Champs
- Tournament League 6 Team Champs – first time in school history
- 12 Wrestlers earned All-League honors & qualified for the County Tournament (School Record)
 - Kyle Klein – first @ 99lbs
 - James Alamia – first @ 120lbs
 - James Rado – first @ 126lbs
 - Eric Schreck – first @ 138lbs
 - Joe Bartolotto – first @ 160lbs
 - Joe Filippetti – second @ 285lbs
 - Shane White – second @ 220lbs
 - Ivan Cisneros – second @ 170lbs
 - Eric Cisneros – second @ 152lbs
 - Ryan Grebe – second @ 145lbs
 - Matt McNulty – third @ 195lbs
 - Matt Leen – fourth @ 152lbs
- Three Wrestlers earned All-County honors by finishing in the Top-6 for their weight class
 - Kyle Klein – sixth @ 99lbs.
 - Eric Schreck – fifth @ 138lbs.
 - Ivan Cisneros – fifth @ 170lbs.
- Matt Kaszubski was voted League 6 Varsity “Coach of the Year”
- Dom LoRe was voted League 6 JV “Coach of the Year”
- Joe Bartolotto was named “Most Outstanding Wrestler” at the League 6 Tournament
- Eric Schreck tied school record for Most Wins in a Season (42)... shared with Zach Buonaiuto (2009)
- Nine team/individual records broken or tied this season!

WINTER 2016-17 TEAM/ INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- All six teams for the Winter Season qualified as “SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAMS” with 75 percent of the roster averaging a 90+ GPA during the second quarter.
- 62 percent (112 out of 180) of Winter Athletes Earned Individual Scholar Athlete awards for achieving a 90+ GPA during the second quarter.

GIRLS WINTER TRACK

- League 4 Team Champs (third time in four years!)
- All-League Honors
 - Carissa Militano; second in 55m, fifth in Long Jump
 - Amanda Stead; first in 300m Dash; third in 55m
 - Kelly Holownia; second in Triple Jump
 - Arianna Esposito; third in Triple Jump
 - Siara Guevara; second in 55m Hurdles
 - Germaine Harbaugh; sixth in 1500m Run
 - Danelle Rose; third in 3000m Run
 - Jillian Patterson; first in High Jump; third in 55m Hurdles
 - Angie Guevara; sixth in High Jump
 - 4x200 Relay placed first; (Cassandra Sperl, Carissa Militano, Kelly Holownia, Amanda Stead)...set new Suffolk County “Small School” record
 - 4x400 Relay placed third; (Arianna Esposito, Siara Guevara, Jacklyn Spaccaforno, Madison Murphy)
 - 4x800 Relay placed third; (Germaine Harbaugh, Kallioppi Gasparis, Caitlin Sternberg, Danelle Rose)
- All County Honors — this is for ALL of Suffolk County (Large & Small School Combined)
 - Amanda Stead – second in 300m
 - Kelly Holownia – fifth in Triple Jump
- State Qualifiers
 - Amanda Stead – 300m



Amanda Stead placed 4th in NYS for the 300m Dash

BOYS WINTER TRACK

- All-League honors
 - Tom Schott; first in 600m
 - Nick Niemczyk; third in 55m
 - Tyler Gray; third in 1000m
 - Matt Adamo; third in 300m
 - Camerone Martins; third in Triple Jump
 - James LaFontaine; sixth in Long Jump
 - 4x200 Relay placed second; (Cameron Martins, Miles Martins, Nick Niemczyk and Matt Adamo)
- State Qualifiers
 - Tom Schott – Intersectional Relay Team

CHEERLEADING

- Finished the regular season in second place for Suffolk County “Division 2 – Small Squad” and qualified for the Suffolk County Championships.

Art and Music News

Take a peek at some of the art and music updates across Miller Place Schools!

Pictured below are MPHS vocal jazz students performing for an assembly for LADSBS students and SCMEA Jazz Day, in addition to some pieces of art created by Miller Place students this school year!



Miller Place HS Instrumental and Vocal Jazz Ensembles performing at a fifth-grade assembly at LADSBS.



NCRMS student-musicians performed a holiday concert at AMPS.



Helena Mott, MPHS, Colors of Long Island Show 2017



Grace Steele, NCRMS, Colors of Long Island Show 2017



Ivy Newman, NCRMS, Colors of Long Island Show 2017



Geraldine Luglio, MPHS 2017

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

May 16, 2017 • 6 AM to 9 PM • NCRMS

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register in the Office of the District Clerk, located within the Administration Building at 7 Memorial Drive in Miller Place, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Registration is for new residents or those residents who have not voted in the District or a Suffolk County election in the past four years. Proof of residency is required. The deadline to register to vote at the Administration Building is May 11, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to register after May 11, 2017 for the May 16, 2017 budget vote, you must do so through the Board of Elections in Yaphank.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 10-APRIL 14

*Spring Recess -
Schools Closed*

APRIL 26

*Board of Education Meeting
8:00 PM, MPHS*

MAY 9

*Budget Hearing
8:00 PM, MPHS*

MAY 16

*Budget Vote
6AM-9PM, NCRMS*

MAY 29

Memorial Day - Schools Closed

JUNE 9

*NRCMS Grade 8
Moving-Up Ceremony*

JUNE 13 (RAIN DATE JUNE 14)

*AMPS 2nd Grade
Moving-Up Celebration*

JUNE 14

*Board of Education Meeting
8:00 PM, NCRMS*

JUNE 16

*LADSBS 5th Grade
Moving-Up Ceremony*

JUNE 23

MPHS Graduation

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*
Julianna Dolinski, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano