

Miller Place

Fall 2015

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us



Newly Completed Facilities Projects Provide Safety and Well-Being for Students

With this new school year comes the successful completion of numerous facilities projects throughout our District. Projects have been completed at all four of our schools, from improving the security vestibules at Andrew Muller Primary School and Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School; to roofing, site improvements and gymnasium upgrades at North Country Road Middle School; to an upgraded auditorium, weight room, heavy duty lockers, and stadium/lighting upgrades at Miller Place High School. For a complete list and pictures of all of our recent facilities projects, please visit a more detailed description on our website.



At AMPS, a reconstructed security vestibule and new transaction window will provide upgraded security, and a full roof replacement was completed as well.



Work at LADSBS included a new security vestibule, main entrance and main entrance transaction window. A new playground will be installed in Spring 2016.



A partial roof replacement and new baseball fields are complete at NCRMS.



This year, MPHS has upgraded tennis courts and baseball/softball fields, in addition to a new multi-sport stadium and track.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The first quarter of our school year is already over and the holiday season is nearly here!

The Miller Place School District has gotten off to a fantastic start so far, and I for one am extremely excited for what the rest of the school year will bring. As students came into class this September, there were some noteworthy changes to our buildings. Construction throughout the summer upgraded all four of our school buildings, improving security and much more. From the upgraded auditorium, weight room, lockers and stadium at MPHS to security vestibules at AMPS and LADSBS, to multiple site improvements at NCRMS, every one of our school buildings has been improved to provide the best possible environment for learning. Please visit our website for a complete listing of construction and facility projects.

A safe learning environment is a top priority of the District. By providing our students with a safe environment, educators have better opportunities to engage students and support them as they learn and grow. Every student learns at his or her own pace and by incorporating technology into our learning environments and providing hands-on assistance, students are able to have a deeper understanding of the curriculum and excel. We are all also extremely excited about the second year of full-day kindergarten at AMPS. More time for instruction will lead to better results for students as they move forward in their education. As students enter first grade better prepared, academic results will continue to trend upward. We are particularly excited that this year's first-grade class is reading-ready, evidence of the hard work spent last year in our inaugural full-day kindergarten class.

Our educators are focused on ensuring that Miller Place students are prepared for college and careers upon their graduation. Teachers and administrators in all of our school buildings are implementing the New York State Common Core State Standards, keeping 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 a District, we have had many accomplishments in recent years, from academic success to achievements in athletics and the arts. It is up to us to build upon that success this year and relentlessly continue to strive for greater heights!

As you will read throughout this newsletter and have surely heard firsthand, Miller Place students have made significant accomplishments so far this year. All of us look forward to even greater achievements as the school year progresses.

Wishing each of you a wonderful holiday season,

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

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

With the first quarter of the school year behind us and the holiday season just around the corner, there is no better time to look toward the future. The construction this summer has shaped our school buildings into secure, state-of-the-art learning environments, ready to support our students for years to come. While we are excited for what has been done, there is still much more ahead. At each of our buildings, administrators are preparing for the 2016-2017 budget. Our community has resoundingly supported the District's initiatives in recent years, from our budgets to our bond referendum. This year, the Board is continuing its commitment to fiscal responsibility and prudence by working to ensure the budget remains under the state mandated tax cap while maintaining the educators, activities and programs our students need to thrive. It is our priority to continue providing Miller Place students with the education they deserve while keeping taxes low for residents.

The Board of Education and administration are committed to our community, and we are excited for the rest of the school year. Our students have made incredible accomplishments so far, and there's much more for them to achieve before graduation and moving-up ceremonies in June. I hope you will join us for upcoming budget hearings and workshops and let your voice be heard. An engaged community is an invaluable resource, and I look forward to all that we can accomplish together.

Miller Place Proud!

Johanna Testa, *Board of Education President*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 AP SCHOLARS



(Row 1 – left to right): Joan Lauria, Uma Kumar, Barbara O'Connor, Jessica Powers, Clara Tucker
 (Row 2 – left to right): Parker Chase, Nicholas Novak, Rhianna Ruggiero, Nicole Stamatiades, Bianca Checa, Emily Gleason, Morgan Cohen, Danielle Marino, Ryan Ammirato, Christina Yun
 (Row 3 – left to right): Sean White, Assistant Principal/Director of Guidance, Tristan Verdone, Mamerto Teniozo, Colin Killeen, Ali Rahman, Shane Powers, Charles Patterson, Jacob Wente, Anton Fischer, Stephen Mirandi, Nicholas Panico, John Reagan
 Not pictured: Courtney Adler, Emilee Carratala, Sara D'Alessandro, Melanie Paul Austin, Elizabeth Whitlow



Miller Place School's 2015 Board of Education Student Representative

The Board of Education Student Representative for the 2015-2016 school year is Jenna Conti. Jenna is bright, respectful and responsible, well-liked by her peers and teachers for her easy-going personality and friendly disposition. She is a two-season athlete on the girls' varsity field hockey team and winter cheerleading squad. A dedicated team player and a positive role model for the younger girls on her teams, Jenna is also President of Executive Council and has been a member for three years. In this role, she helps facilitate events, programs and fundraisers for the high school. Jenna is looking to attend Suffolk County Community College next fall, where she can complete her two years of liberal arts requirements and explore the variety of different programs offered.



Visit our website to keep apprised of news updates, our calendar and more about the Miller Place School District!

<http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/>

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

AMPS

October was filled with exciting events at **Andrew Muller Primary School**, but one of the most exciting—as it is every year—is the visit from the Sound Beach and Miller Place fire departments. Five emergency vehicles pulled up to AMPS the morning of October 9th, including the tower ladder, an engine, a fire police vehicle, a pumper truck and an ambulance. Students had the opportunity to climb into a truck, were able to hold equipment and were given a demonstration of what happens when an ambulance is needed and what to do in case of a fire.

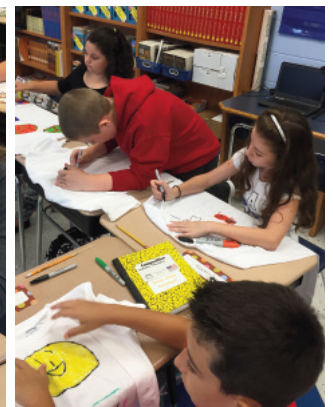
Every class met with the brave members of our local fire departments, and at the end of the visit each student received a packet and a pencil with emergency safety tips and their very own fire hats. This collaborative effort supports our curriculum as kindergarteners are studying community helpers and each grade learns about fire prevention.

Special thanks to Bob Pulick and all of our volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel for donating their time to bring this exciting and educational day to our students. It is truly a community collaboration and one that inspires AMPS students!



LADSBS

At **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School**, students celebrated International Peace Day on September 21st. All were encouraged to wear white for the day, and white bows were displayed around the school to recognize, bring awareness and honor this noble initiative. Fifth graders viewed the 30-minute film *Peace One Day*, chronicling the journey of filmmaker Jeremy Gilley as he attempted to create a day of peace and non-violence across the globe. Phoebe Arancio provided a brief introduction, encouraging students to think beyond their own Miller Place community. During lunch, students created peace doves—writing their names on the doves and what they can do to make peace in their school, home and the greater community. Afterward, the doves were strung together and hung throughout the hallways of the building. Fifth graders also painted a banner to hang on the bulletin board, another display symbolizing LADSBS' unified commitment to International Peace Day.



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

NCRMS

The **North Country Road Middle School** is off to a great start this year as students have settled into the routine of their class schedules, proper navigation of the hallways and opening their lockers without assistance. Class expectations have been shared with students and were discussed during our open-house evenings for the parents of the school community. Student orientation assemblies were provided to discuss proper protocol, as well as extracurricular opportunities beyond the school day.

The entire student body participated in our All Access Production, which included an assembly coupled with the actors and actresses spending time in our cafeteria during each lunch period. (See the MPHS story for more details!) After a sturdy foundation was established, it was a perfect time to celebrate our Miller Place community pride during Spirit Week. Every year the week leading to our Homecoming weekend is filled with excitement and displays of unity at NCRMS. On October 13th, staff and students eased into Spirit Week with pajama day. Wacky Wednesday was a time for students to throw fashion rules to the side and let their innovation take over—students wore their clothes inside-out, backward and every which way that let them express their creativity. Students celebrated Character Day on Thursday by dressing as a favorite character from a book or a movie and staff members enjoyed the day by inquiring about the student's characters. The week wrapped up with Spirit Day, during which sixth graders wore red, seventh graders wore white and eighth graders wore blue. All of our school colors were represented, and some students chose to wear their Miller Place athletic jerseys as well. Spirit week is a great way to add on to a great beginning of the school year and build up to Homecoming weekend, which is shared by the entire community!



MPHS

Miller Place High School hosted a handful of assemblies this fall. The first, *The Speak Life Event*, a comprehensive bullying and violence prevention program put on by All Access Productions, covered bullying, cyber bullying, teen violence, peer pressure, teen suicide, poor self-image and the struggle to “fit in.” The show included hip-hop and Broadway-style dancers, live singers and actors, and interactive video segments. Afterward, MPHS students in the audience interacted with the performers, asking questions about issues facing adolescents. Second was *The Save A Life Tour*, a comprehensive safe driving awareness program demonstrating the potentially deadly consequences resulting from poor decisions made by the operator of a motor vehicle. Finally, the Suffolk County Police Department 6th Precinct presented *The Ugly Truth*. The presentation focused on education, awareness and the prevention of substance abuse for parents and guardians. Additionally, narcan training was conducted by the Academy EMT staff and Narcan kits were distributed for those interested.



A Homecoming to Remember!

Miller Place defeated Rocky Point 53-14; Panther Pride was in full force, as attendance was 1,500+!





ATHLETIC NEWS



Panthers Supporting our Community

We're proud to acknowledge the boys' soccer and girls' volleyball teams; during Homecoming week, they collectively raised more than \$3,500 for two charities! Boys' soccer raised \$2,400 through its ALS fundraiser and girls' volleyball raised \$1,400 through its Dig Pink Breast Cancer fundraiser. Great work Panthers!

Congratulations to the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2015:

- Dan Austin ('76)
- Joe Conlon ('85)
- Paul Darrigo ('85)
- Tommy Hogan ('79)
- Suzy Lahey ('89)
- Kevin McKeown, Jr. ('80)
- Amanda O'Brien-Milliesen ('93)
- Melissa Panasci ('94)
- Derek Wachter ('88)

Five Fall Teams Advance to the Playoffs:

- Field Hockey— the team went undefeated in the regular season!
- Football
- Boys' Soccer
- Boys' Cross Country
- Girls' Cross Country



Music News



Congratulations to Stephen Mirandi!

He was selected for the 2015 All-National Honor Ensemble, a prestigious honor ensemble and program of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). This year, 673 students from 49 states and territories were accepted. Stephen is the first ever All-National student from Miller Place! He performed with the All-Nationals Symphonic Band in Nashville, Tennessee at the All Nationals Conference October 25-28.

Six Miller Place Students Selected as All-State Musicians

Six Miller Place students were selected as New York All-State musicians! (L-R) Maria Campo, Patrick Feinberg, Mert Teniozo, Stephen Mirandi, Emilee Carratele, Christina Yun. Mert, symphonic band; Patrick, symphony orchestra; and Emilee, women's chorus have all been selected to participate; Maria and Christina have been selected as alternates.



MPHS Participates in NYSCAME All-County Festival

Eight Miller Place students were selected for participation in this year's Suffolk Chapter of the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) All-County Festival. (L-R) Maria Campo, Patrick Feinberg, Mert Teniozo, Stephen Mirandi, Emilee Carratele, Charles Burgner, Christina Yun and Sara D'Alessandro.





Dates to Remember

**November 25: Early Dismissal Drill,
All Buildings Release 15 Minutes Early**

**November 26-27: Thanksgiving Recess,
Schools Closed**

**December 9: Board of Education
Meeting, 7:30 p.m. @ MPHS**

**December 24 - January 3:
Winter Recess, Schools Closed**

**January 18: Martin Luther King Day,
Schools Closed**

**January 27: 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 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*
Jenna Conti, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Marianne F. Higuera