

# Miller Place

Spring 2016

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



[www.millerplace.k12.ny.us](http://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us)

## INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE EDUCATION

Technology has redefined the way students learn. Information is accessible in new, interactive ways and continues to impact how curriculum is developed, the delivery of instruction, and how students learn. An invaluable resource, technology is successfully being integrated into the curriculum at all levels. At Andrew Muller Primary School, students access digital resources including The Great Body Shop during Health Education instruction and the BOCES Virtual Reference Collection. Some first and second graders use “Kidspiration” to visually connect pictures of healthy foods and identify American symbols with words to improve their knowledge, comprehension and problem-solving skills. All students use “GoNoodle” to move their bodies, follow directions and improve fitness without having to leave the classroom. Keeping an active body reinforces an active mind and boosts student performance in class.



Incorporating technology expands beyond the formal curriculum. Third graders at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School recently Skyped with a US Army Private at Fort Campbell, Kentucky prior to his deployment overseas. The students asked questions about his daily life and inspiration to serve our country. Following the Skype session, students committed to write letters to him once he is settled at his deployment location overseas. Similarly, after reading the book *Hound Dog True*, fifth graders Skyped with the book's author Linda Urban for a unique, interactive question-and-answer session.

The District will continue to participate in “The Hour of Code,” an initiative in which students learn the basics of computer science and programming, skills vital for an evolving job market. Coding is extremely important as a hands-on learning opportunity bridging math and science while also providing students a chance to solve new problems by thinking “outside of the box.” Several teachers in the District have already engaged in coding experiences in the classroom with their students.

An opportunity for Math enrichment was offered this February at North Country Road Middle School. MATHCON, and online mathematics competition, was held in computer labs after school as an innovative and engaging learning activity. Students participated, with their peers around the country as academic competitors, studying and preparing for an afternoon of group math enrichment.

Miller Place High School technology classes are using 3-D printers to design, create and print a replacement connecting link on a keychain. Students first drew the design in AutoCAD, a software program with real-world applications. Once the pattern was chosen, it then was duplicated in 3-D to be printed. 3-D printing is one of the many ways that technology is truly impacting our way of life. As we become more accustomed to 3-D printing, we have a greater awareness of opportunities to design and manufacture things that in the past were impossible. In addition, high school students are using the website [www.vocabulary.com](http://www.vocabulary.com) to compete in the Vocabulary Bowl, making strides not only in English Language Arts, but across all subject areas, which also supports success on college entrance exams. For their incredible participation and success, Miller Place High School students were recognized as the New York State Champions for the month of February!

Technology is constantly researched and conscientiously implemented in classrooms throughout the District to enhance teaching and learning. Instructional technology supports learning, as it allows an endless access to content within and beyond the classroom. This allows and encourages educators to delve deeper into lessons. Having real-time access to limitless resources engages students, as technology intuitively provides for and promotes active learning experiences. The District continues to embrace opportunities that incorporate the technological innovations which support student learning and social and emotional enrichment.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



With just a few months left in the school year, students and educators throughout the District are hard at work preparing for required assessments and final exams. Likewise, the Board of Education and administration are preparing the 2016-2017 budget for the community's annual budget vote on May 17.

Miller Place students have achieved much for which we should be proud this school year; they continue to make strides in classrooms, on athletic fields and throughout the entire Miller Place community academically, artistically, musically, and more. As the summer months are right around the corner, it's that exciting time of the year when we can look forward to students' graduation and moving-up ceremonies, and students themselves look to set new goals for next year and prepare for their transition to new school buildings.

As we all know, high school graduates face a competitive college application process and job market. Their education from pre-kindergarten through graduation has never been more important as they develop into well-rounded young adults. That's why our District must reinforce our commitment to continue providing a rich, relevant and engaging education for all students.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read about how the District has made an effort to incorporate technology at all grade levels to enhance learning. Literacy and mathematics have been at the forefront of education, but now more than ever technology and STEM must be prioritized to prepare students for emerging careers and encourage them to become innovators. It is our responsibility to maintain our vision for providing students with the experiences they need to successfully meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Preparation for the 2016-17 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 financial ability. For Miller Place to ensure continued student success, we must continue to work together on their behalf. I would like to thank you for your participation in the budget process, as a well-informed and engaged community is vital to a successful comprehensive budget.

As you enjoy the warmer weather of spring, please visit the District's website and calendar to stay informed on all upcoming community and student events. I look forward to seeing you there!

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

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

As the school year approaches the summer months, students and educators across Miller Place are hard at work preparing for exams, moving-up ceremonies and graduation. Likewise, the Board of Education and administration are focused on the task of maintaining—and, in many cases, expanding—our educational offerings while paving the way to a balanced budget for the 2016-2017 school year. The entire board is proud of the work done so far this year by the entire Miller Place community, as together we continue to learn, improve and achieve at everything we set our minds to.

Students are thriving in all District schools, as last summer's renovations have transformed our buildings into state-of-the-art learning environments. It's exciting to see that the work we've strived for is paying dividends for students; our buildings are secure and educators have opportunities to incorporate technology into everyday learning. We are always looking ahead to continue improving, whether it's inside of a classroom, through extracurricular activities, or as part of one of our community partnerships. Students are always encouraged to get involved—it's our responsibility to make sure opportunities and support are always present.

As you know, the Board of Education and administration are preparing for the 2016-2017 budget. Overwhelming community support has been key to the District's initiatives in recent years, including our bond referendum. The budget vote is just around the corner, and residents can be assured the Board and District remain committed to the two key goals of fiscal responsibility and academic excellence. The proposed budget this year remains under the state mandated tax cap, keeping taxes low for residents, while maintaining our priority to provide Miller Place students with the best education they deserve.

I'd like to mention that as a Board we are proud of the programs we have offered to the community and our students in the areas of substance abuse and being responsible with technology. Our students' health and safety is a top priority; this was put to the test just a few weeks ago with the unfortunate spread of rumors on social media. Our District administrators and educators rose to the challenge and handled the situation with the safety of our students first while making sure the community was kept informed.

Thanks to our many community groups who support and help enhance all of our programs. We are fortunate to live in such a close and tight knit community. Wishing all a Happy Spring!

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!*

## Miller Place Students Inducted into National Honor Society

Stephen Anglim	Charles Burgner	Molly Feinberg	Raymond Klotz	Taylor Murray	Cassandra Sperl
David Argento	Aleena Butt	Lauren Ferrara	Krishna Kumar	Alexander Naimo	Jillian Spreckels
Jaclyn Barreca	Claudia Campanella	Joseph Filippetti	Jessica LaFontaine	Justin O'Connor	Jacob Stern
Nicole Barreca	Maria Campo	Kevin Gersbeck	Kelsey Lane	Danielle Plunkett	Ryan Sultan
Joseph Bartolotto	Allison Cipriani	Robert Godbersen	Rebecca Lauria	Sean Reagan	William Sussman
Bobbi Marie Battey	Michael Cirrito	Germaine Harbaugh	Brianne Ledda	Nicholas Roethel	Emily Taylor
Anthony Beck	Kathryn Contrelli	Brooke Hills	Matthew Leen	Tyler Ross	Kirsten Taylor
Jonathan Beers	Daniel Cronin	Kelly Holownia	Alexandra Leichter	Ashley Russo	Sophia Tsenes
Matthew Bell	Sara D'Alessandro	Emma Jacobsen	Raymond Lombardi	Emily Sammartino	Jessica Vasturino
Alyssa Bonneville	James D'Eletto	Danielle Jimenez	Geraldine Luglio	James Samonas	Nicholas Walerstein
Shannon Brady	Emma Dell'Aquila	Nicole Johnson	Kaitlyn McNulty	Arthur Sarkissyan	Treicy Wan
Maximilian Braun	Shannon Delurey	Alexandra	Aditya Mehra	Daniel Sexton	Elizabeth Winter
Conlin Brennan	Marc DiFilippo	Kastamonitis	Michael Mertz	Taylor Somers	
Arthur Bruemmer	Julianna Dolinski	Gavin Kelly	Brendan Murphy	James Sottilo	

## National Junior Honor Society Grade Inductees

Andrew Abrams	Isabella Daleo	Ashley Geiser	David Lambert	Amanda Piccora	Riley Smith
Hannah Anderson	Emma Davis	Skyler Goldberg	Cassandra Leahy	Oliver Pitts	Jacklyn Spaccaforno
Jacob Aretz	Larry Davis	Rachel Guzowski	Nicholas Leone	Madeleine Pranzo	Lucas Stahlmann
Joseph Bisiani	Amanda Degnan	Ryan Hart	Matthew Leonoff	Momin Rafiq	Taylor Stellin
William Boglino	Alana DelMar	Julian Hart	Michael Lombardi	Taylor Reese	Caitlin Sternberg
Colin Brennan	Nicolas DeRosa	Timothy Hirdt	Kevin Maloney	April Roethel	Jordan Syperski
Hannah Burton	Michael DiLorenzo	Ryan Huckle	John Mari	Danelle Rose	Adam Tarsia
Julianna Campo	Deirdre Doherty	Madalyn Hymowitz	Gavin McAlonie	Michael Rosman	Caleigh Tarulli
Dylan Carleo	Christine Doherty	Geonna Johnson	Thomas McBrien	Caitlin Russo	McKenzie Taylor
Marissa Castelli	Jillian Donovan	Eleni Kastamonitis	Robert Mercado	Lauren Salvia	Daniel Thompson
Julianne Cerato	Jamie Fehling	Kyle Klein	Dimitra Miloulis	Jack Schiefer	Kevin Thompson
Thomas Cirrito	Jack Follo	Lucas Knee	Dana Moss	Madison Segal	Samantha Torre
Alexa Cohen	Jack Gallagher	Nicole Krane	Madison Murphy	Olivia Shamberger	Wade Tucker
Paige Conelli	Rebecca Garcia	Julia Kranenberg	Anna Nugent	Henry Shemet	Ty Young
Nicole Cordes	Lindsey Garthe	Mia Lafond	Grace Patterson	Ryan Sheridan	Alexa Zicchinelli
Abigail Costa					

## MILLER PLACE 'LIGHT'S IT UP BLUE' IN MARCH FOR AUTISM SPEAKS!

We are excited that students, educators and community members came together to participate in the "Light It Up Blue" puzzle piece campaign to raise money for the Long Island Chapter of Autism Speaks! Thank you to all involved for supporting a great cause!





# TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION AROUND THE DISTRICT

## AMPS

At the Andrew Muller Primary School, technology has been integrated in both ordinary and exceptional ways to enhance student learning. This year, each class has received three new tablets to replace older machines, and the full class set of laptops have been replaced with easier-to-use tablets that can be used with both a touchscreen or typing component. Class projects have incorporated technology to help students learn. The “Kidspiration” program allows students to visually connect pictures and words of healthy foods in a mind map, increasing vocabulary and helping students form healthy habits. Movement breaks with “GoNoodle” have become a popular activity to foster focus and health in all classes. Some second-grade classes recently used the BOCES Virtual Reference Collection to research facts about US Symbols—students

then worked on a collaborative PowerPoint presentation, which included student’s voice recordings of the facts they had researched, to apply what they had learned in a group presentation.



## LADSBS

Fifth graders celebrated the completion of their holiday vacations by reading Linda Urban’s book *Hound Dog True* and having a conversation with the author via Skype. The book is about coping with the fear of meeting new people, and students had the chance to ask Ms. Urban questions about the book and its lessons. After speaking with the author, students moved from classroom to classroom participating in activities, completing writing tasks, doing science experiments and more. To truly bring the story to life, all students arrived at school wearing their favorite pajamas, since the main character twisted the button of her favorite pajamas when she was nervous.

Similarly, third graders in Ms. McCann and Ms. Autino’s classes Skyped with United States Army Private Leander Martin. Martin was serving at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, after completing training and was awaiting deployment overseas. Students asked Private Martin questions about his job in the military, what his daily life is like and why he decided to join the army to serve his country. The students plan to continue the conversation by sending letters once he is settled overseas. Miller Place students began writing to Private Martin after learning he had lost his parents as a teenager, and therefore, was not receiving any correspondence from home. The students aimed to provide a sense of home for the soldier, while learning about military life and the importance of sacrifice and courage.

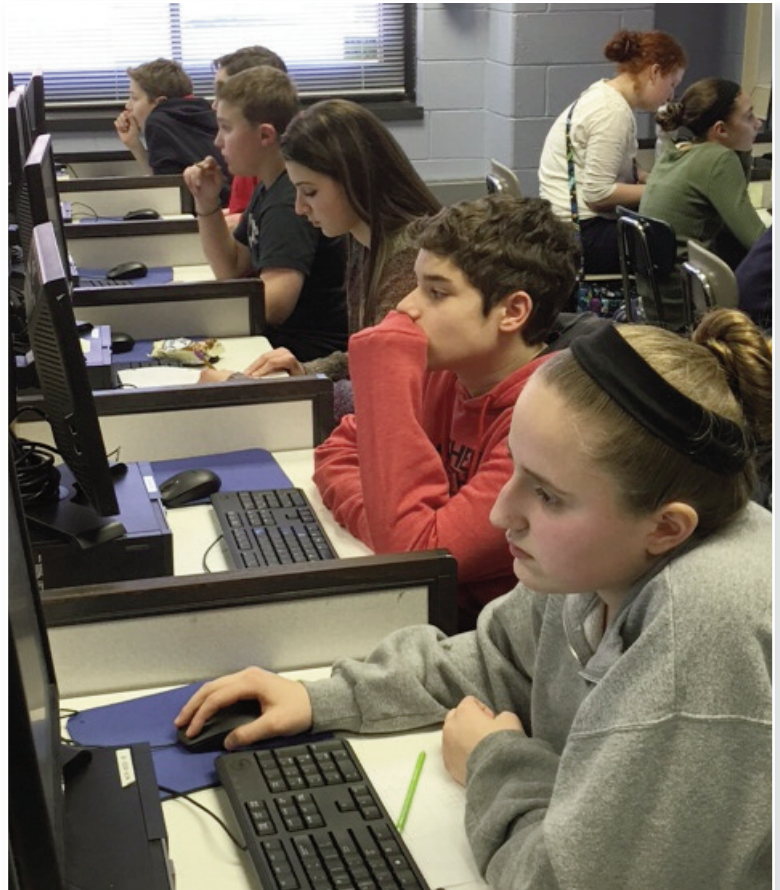




# TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION AROUND THE DISTRICT

## NCRMS

During the first days of the month of March, more than 200 students elected to participate in the 2016 MATHCON for the first time. The online exam is a timed contest, 40 minutes in length, and is made up of multiple choice questions; the questions require ingenuity and insight that is predominantly on grade level. The exams include problems that vary in degrees of difficulty, enabling all students to be equally challenged. All of the middle school's computer labs were occupied to administer the exam, and individual scores were automatically uploaded to the MATHCON website. It was exciting to observe the students' reactions to the instant results, which seem to be related to the "pressure-free" environment of the tests. All students who took part received a MATHCON Participation Certificate, and National rankings will be uploaded to the website during the second week of March. There is an opportunity beyond the local contest for those who qualify for the next level, including an invitation to the MATHCON finals at the University of Illinois at Chicago in April for a paper-based examination. A special thank you goes to the middle school math department for their work coordinating this endeavor. Students enjoyed the opportunity beyond the regularly scheduled day, and they looked forward to future contests to compete against students from other parts of our state, nation and across the globe.



## MPHS

Students and families from Miller Place High School and North Country Road Middle School recently participated in an internet awareness assembly. Officer Thomas Grimes, a United States Air Force Veteran and retired New York City Police Department detective, led the students in a discussion of the innumerable positive opportunities provided by the internet, and how the importance of using it responsibly is vital. During this assembly, Officer Grimes shared personal stories, news accounts that demonstrated the consequences of unsafe internet practices and a video message from President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Students had the chance to learn about internet safety and were able to ask Officer Grimes any questions concerning threats, cyberbullying, state and federal laws and more. Parents and guardians also attended an internet safety assembly to learn about the importance of teaching internet safety at home, understanding how students use social networks and how to protect their children from online threats.





# Art and Music News

## MILLER PLACE STUDENTS PRODUCE WORKS OF ART!

Recognition is due to our student-artists who have demonstrated their incredible skills and creativity throughout the year. Enjoy a look at some of our favorite pieces of student-made art!



Brian Lindner,  
fourth grader from  
LADSBS,  
performing with  
the High School  
instrumental jazz  
ensemble at a  
recent school  
assembly.



MPHS students selected  
to participate in the  
Mid-Island Band  
Festival in January at  
Patchogue-Medford  
High School.



NCRMS music  
students performing  
a holiday concert  
for AMPS students.





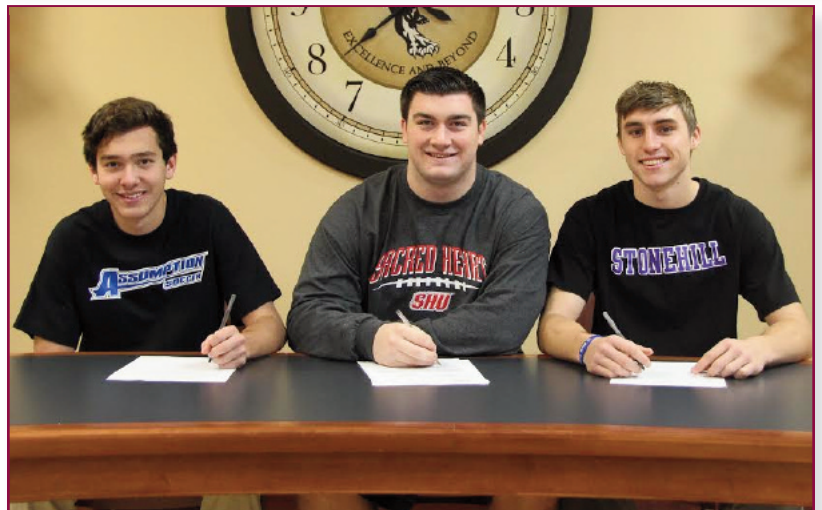


## Miller Place Student-Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

### *Eight Miller Place High School Students Will Play for College Sports Teams*

The Miller Place School District is proud to announce that eight seniors from Miller Place High School recently signed letters of intent to play their respective sports at the collegiate level next year. The students—Alex Moschella, Kieran Glynn, Douglas Minogue, Allison Turturro, Kristin Roberto, Alyssa Parrella, Danielle Powers and Laura Nolan—have received numerous athletic and academic accolades throughout their time at Miller Place High School.

- Kieran Glynn will attend Sacred Heart University and play on the school's football team. During his athletic career at Miller Place High School, Kieran was named All-League in 2014 and 2015. Also in 2015, Kieran was named All-County, All-Long Island and All-State.
- Doug Minogue will play soccer for Stonehill College in the fall after making the Olympic Developmental Program Northeast Regional Select Team. In 2014, he was named Team MVP of Miller Place High School's varsity soccer team and was named All-Conference in 2014. In 2015, Doug was once again named Team MVP; he received All-Conference and All-County honors.
- Alex Moschella will attend Assumption College to play soccer after being named All-League in 2014 and All-Conference in 2015.
- Alyssa Parrella will play lacrosse for Hofstra University. Alyssa was a member of the United States Under-15 National Championship team in 2013; she was named All-County in 2014 and All-Division in 2015.
- Allison Turturro will attend Monmouth University to play lacrosse after being named an Academic All-American in 2015.
- Kristin Roberto attend Penn State University to play lacrosse. Kristin was a member of the United States Under-15 National Championship Team in 2013 and was named All-Division in 2014.
- Danielle Powers will attend Adelphi University to play on the school's field hockey team. Danielle had received an honorable mention All-County in 2014 and All-County honors in 2015.
- Laura Nolan will run track and cross country at the University at Albany in the fall after receiving accolades for her performance in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. In cross country, Laura was named All-Federation three times, All-County five times and All-Division three times; in indoor track, Laura was named All-League four times and All-County three times; and in outdoor track, Laura was named ninth in the nation for Steeplechase, All-League four times, All-Division four times and All-County four times.



# Remember to Vote!

## May 17, 2016 • 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 12, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to register after May 12, 2016 for the May 17, 2016 budget vote, you must do so through the Board of Elections in Yaphank.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 20**  
Board of Education Meeting  
8:00 PM, MPHS

**April 25-April 29**  
Spring Recess II -  
Schools Closed

**May 25**  
Board of Education Meeting  
8:00 PM, MPHS

**May 30**  
Memorial Day -  
Schools Closed

**June 14 (Rain Date June 15)**  
AMPS 2nd Grade  
Moving-Up Celebration

**June 15**  
Board of Education Meeting  
8:00 PM, NCRMS

**June 20**  
LADSBS 5th Grade  
Moving-Up Ceremony

**June 22**  
NRCMS Grade 8  
Moving-Up Ceremony

**June 24**  
MPHS Graduation

### AHERA Notification

In compliance with AHERA (40CFR Part 763), the Miller Place Union Free School District is notifying all parents, teachers, and employee organizations that all required asbestos re-inspections and surveillances have been performed and copies of such and all other reports documenting response actions taken, are on file with the District Asbestos Management Plan located in the District's Facilities Office. If you have any questions or wish to view these documents, please contact Dennis Warsaw, District Asbestos Compliance Officer, at 474-2731 for an appointment.

## 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