



The Panther Press

Fall 2023

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

PANTHERS POUNCE INTO HOMECOMING

The Miller Place School District recently held an exciting Homecoming celebration with students, staff, alumni and friends on September 30th. Throughout the week, students and staff members at all school buildings displayed their school spirit for "Spirit Week" in preparation for the celebratory weekend parade and football game. The District concluded the week with a high school pep rally, at which varsity teams were introduced and classes competed in friendly events and competitions. It all led up to a victorious home game for the Miller Place Panthers, who defeated the Islip Buccaneers with a score of 33-7.

Homecoming brought together the Miller Place community for a tremendous showing of Panther Pride. It was exciting to see staff and students enthusiastically participating in Spirit Week. A spirited parade combined with a deserving win before a full crowd made for a successful Homecoming on many fronts.

- Superintendent of Schools Seth Lipshie



A Message from Superintendent Seth Lipshie

On Tuesday, September 5th we welcomed over 2,300 students back to our classrooms, including the 2024 senior class and our newest generation of students, the Class of 2037. Welcome back!

The new District website was officially launched on August 1st. As with all new programs, we will continue to make adjustments as needed in order to provide the staff and community the best possible website to access information about the District. In August, parents, guardians and students were invited into our buildings for a walk-through and orientation. Staff gathered on August 30th and 31st for Superintendent's Conference Day to finalize preparations for students' return.

As we opened, the new school year activities were in high gear. Each school building had its own open house. This fall, 22 interscholastic athletic teams will be representing Miller Place. Clubs offer another opportunity for students to be involved in school. With 40 clubs offered at the secondary level, students can select activities that interest them. In the late fall and early winter, clubs will start at both Andrew Muller Primary School and Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School. Our annual Homecoming celebration was held on September 30th. Throughout the week,

students and staff members displayed their school spirit, Miller Place High School students concluded Spirit Week with a pep rally. On Saturday, the traditional Homecoming parade took place prior to the Panthers 33-7 victory over the Islip Buccaneers.

We are in the final stages of having a Strategic Plan to guide the District over the next five years. The Strategic Planning Committee met throughout the summer and early fall to work on the project. I want to thank the community members and staff who participated. I look forward to sharing the completed plan with the community, students and staff at a Board of Education meeting.

The Miller Place staff is committed to planning, teaching and supporting student success inside and outside the classroom. It is important for students to let staff members know if they need assistance and encourage parents and guardians to reach out to the staff so they can best understand any issues and devise a plan to reduce any struggles that might prevent student success. As always, I look forward to working with students, parents, guardians and staff to continue to improve upon our student success and continue to make Miller Place the best possible District.

A Message from the Board of Education

Welcome back to a new school year! On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I would like to extend our warmest greetings and share our enthusiasm for the upcoming academic year.

Over the summer, the Board of Education, Superintendent Lipshie, community members, and faculty were busy working on our Strategic Plan. This fall, we will put some finishing touches on the Strategic Plan and present it to the community. This plan will help us focus on our vision and set goals for our students. It has truly brought us together as a community as we continue to plan for the future.

We continue to see portions of our BOND 2021 work being completed throughout the District. We recently celebrated the groundbreaking of our new Andrew Muller Primary School gymnasium. Unfortunately, we have had delays in our air conditioning implementation due to supply chain issues but will continue to keep everyone updated. Each month, at our Board of Education meetings, we update the community on the ongoing BOND 2021 work. Documents for this are also available on our website.

There are so many events happening for our students this fall: Homecoming week with all its activities, open house in all

buildings, book fairs, class field trips, the fall play by our Panther Players, fall sports, PSAT, the college application process for our seniors, club meetings and so much more—all of which you can find out about on our new website.

We encourage you to stay connected with your child's school. Our website, social media, emails, texts, newsletters and recorded Board of Education meetings will provide updates, important announcements and resources to keep you informed and engaged regarding our school district.

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for Miller Place. We believe we have one of the best school faculties around! Together as a united community, we will achieve great things in this coming school year and beyond.

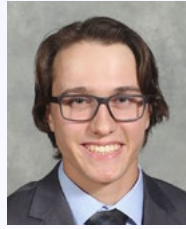
Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are honored to serve as your Board of Education and are committed to working tirelessly to ensure the success of every student in our District. We are Miller Place Proud!

Sincerely,

Lisa Reitan, Board of Education President

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST AND COMMENDED SCHOLARS

The National Merit Semifinalist and Commended students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry. Christopher Barton has been selected to continue the National Merit Scholarship process as a National Merit Semifinalist. Bernard Creedon, Aaron Wang and Alan Yue have been recognized as Commended Students based on their achievement. Congratulations to all four students on their accomplishment and pursuit of academic excellence.



Christopher J. Barton
National Merit Semifinalist



Bernard P. Creedon
National Merit Commended Scholar



Aaron M. Wang
National Merit Commended Scholar



Alan Yue
National Merit Commended Scholar

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AP SCHOLARS!

The AP Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on multiple AP Exams.



Emma M. Anderson



Jack M. Anderson



Christopher J. Barton



Analynn Bisiani



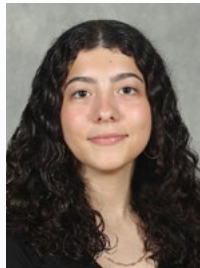
Rayna A. Bruno



Kiera L. Bussewitz



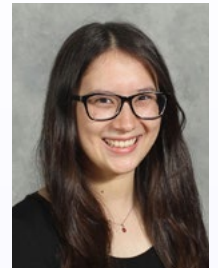
Catherine A. Connolly



Ava G. Conti



Bernard P. Creedon



Quin A. DeVito



Sarah J. DiPersio



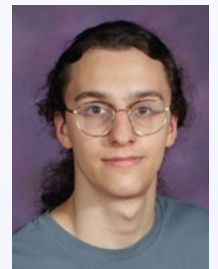
Lindsey M. Galligan



Connor J. Glozek



Madison G. Hall



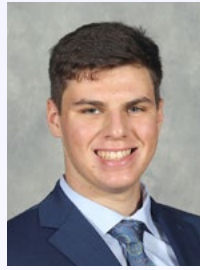
Jacob P. Huwer



Seth M.
Law



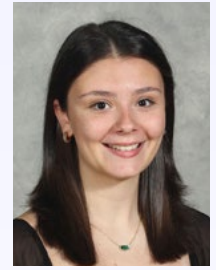
Sophie
Lin



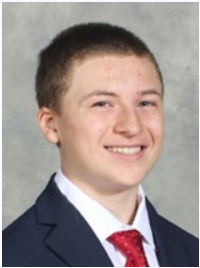
Shane P.
Lomascolo



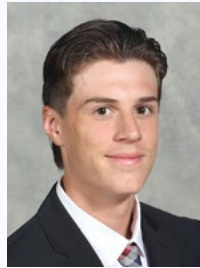
James R.
Loughlin



Maris S.
Lynch



Jack T.
Malawista



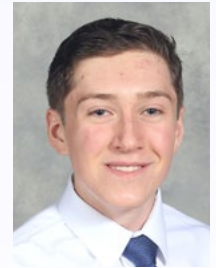
Logan J.
Mancini



Ryan
Maroney



Patrick
Milord



Patrick J.
Murray



Nicholas C.
Nania



Scott E.
Newman



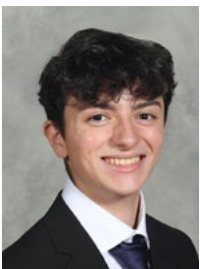
Owen A.
Neyland



Sean R.
Polak



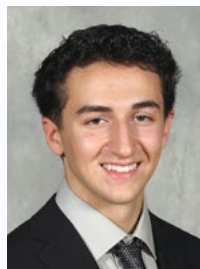
Christian J.
Renna



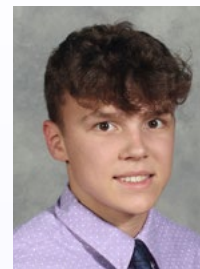
Joseph S.
Ritieni



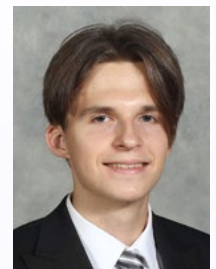
Emma G.
Rosequist



Jake E.
Ryan



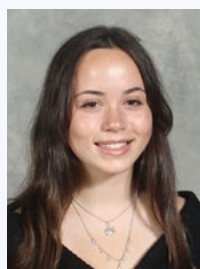
Wyatt S.
Shattes



Maxime
Tchoubar



Alexander M.
Trocchio



Emma J.
Venegoni



Aaron M.
Wang



Kiera M.
Witherell



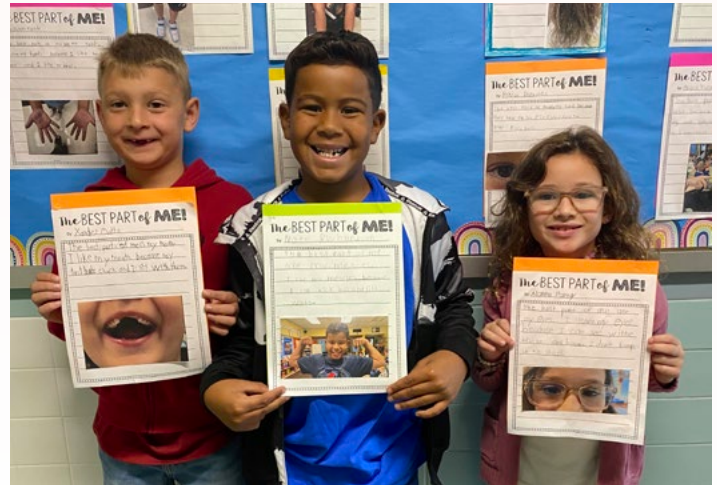
Alan
Yue

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

GETTING OFF TO A GREAT START AT AMPS

The first few weeks of any school year bring so much excitement and learning! They also set the tone for the rest of the year, so it's critically important for educators to help our students start off in the best way possible. One key component is to establish routines, high expectations and a positive class culture.

Teachers and students got to know each other using creative speaking and writing activities. Kindergarteners created an "About Me" paper craft designed with their favorite items. They shared who they are with their teachers and classmates. First grade students created riddles about themselves. Classmates were tasked with guessing who they were. Second grade students recorded what they like the best about themselves and shared their writing with their new classmates. Classroom activities are off to a great start, and students are diving into their new lessons and rapidly making new friends!



PATRIOT'S DAY: PAUSING TO REMEMBER AND LEARN

For all Americans—and particularly New Yorkers—September 11 will always be a difficult date on the calendar. The attacks two decades ago forever changed the world, and each year on the anniversary, we pause to observe Patriot's Day and pay remembrance to the lives lost and the heroes of that day.

Students in Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School observed Patriot's Day in their own unique way this year. In Ms. Mock's third grade class, for example, children listened to the story *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of John J. Harvey*. Students learned about how the crew on the John J. Harvey helped put out fires during and in the immediate aftermath of September 11. After discussing the text, the class designed an award that they would want to give to the crew of the John J. Harvey for their acts of heroism.



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

OFF TO A GREAT START AT NORTH COUNTRY ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

It's great to have faculty, staff, and students back in our hallways and classrooms at the North Country Road Middle School. We are off and running with some traditional fall school events, and some new additions that have enhanced our approach to meet the challenges of an ever-changing adolescent world!

Our grade six schedules have always included health education. Lessons were provided during Language Arts class, and just last year our health teacher, **Alycia Sullivan**, would push into classes to deliver instruction as well. The 2023-24 schedule has been amended to include **health classes for grade six students** as an every-other-day class in the master schedule. The curriculum addresses traditional topics such as nutrition and body systems to recently added topics like digital citizenship and the impact technology (i.e. social media) has in students' lives.

In grade seven, **the Project Based Learning course** provides students an opportunity to tackle research and methods of sharing their work. Students choose their topic, identify a problem or challenge that drives the direction of their idea, pitch the project to their peers in a *Shark Tank* style, and invest their "Pebble\$" currency in projects they believe in. Special thank you to **Sara Mahan** for her creative preparation and planning for this experience.



Our technology department continues with an addition to the department titled **Applications in Technology**, a 10-week exploratory course for grade seven. The new course will support school-wide instruction in digital citizenship, assess the impact of computing in society and expose students to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We will also move to a more robust approach to learn about programming structures, working with Scratch, a block coding language. Special thank you to **Brian Sondi** and **Ryan Verborg** for their work in writing curriculum and creating the approach to broaden student horizons.

FUTURE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS PEEK INTO MOBILE HEALTHCARE WITH ACCLAIMED MOBILE HEALTH

Students in Ms. Matura's Future Medical Professionals class at Miller Place High School recently expanded beyond their classroom walls, exploring the emerging frontier of mobile healthcare with Acclaimed Mobile Health's mobile medical unit. This cutting-edge unit was transformed into a modern, fully functional mobile clinic, and it traveled to MPHS to meet some future professionals of medicine. The students were not mere audience members, however; they engaged in an insightful discussion with the medical personnel in the facility, and a brief conversation with a physician's assistant offered insight into the challenging yet gratifying journey into medicine. An ultrasound technician further explained the nuances of ultrasound technology to convert theoretical knowledge from abstract textbooks to practical understanding.



The event was not just an exhibition of mobile medical technology, but a cauldron of curiosity and ambition. The questions were flying as students got the scoop. From how ultrasound technology works to how they can gear up for a medical career, the Acclaimed Mobile Health's mobile medical unit covered a wide range of topics. Curious students got a firsthand look at the industry and critical advice to chase their own dreams in medicine. They caught sight of technology, accessibility, and medical care as they crossed through the lens of mobile healthcare. This expanded their horizons and inspired them to pursue medicine. This day was not just a mere glimmer of the medical world, but a giant stride towards our students' future careers for a healthier world!

MUSIC & ART NEWS



Miller Place High School Senior Olivia Bloom performed the National Anthem recently at the ALS “Ride for Life” Annual Golf Outing at Willow Creek Country Club. Arts and music have always been used as a tool to connect with the community, and we are so proud that Olivia was able to share her beautiful gift for a good cause!

It was an amazing, memorable summer for several of our Miller Place High School student musicians. So much of the music we love and learn today comes from centuries ago in Europe, and a lucky group of Panthers spent 16 days in six countries, sightseeing and performing concerts throughout the continent. The students were part of the American Music Abroad Freedom Tour and traveled with 221 other high school musicians from Pennsylvania, Westchester, Buffalo and Long Island.



(Pictured left to right) Molly Caufield, Emma Venegoni, Bethany Becker, Greg Marino, Kyle Fehling, Jack Serrentino, Aiden Elder, Eileen Duffy and Ace Echevaria.



ATHLETICS NEWS

MPHS NAMED AN ATHLETIC SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

Miller Place High School was named a 2022-2023 School of Distinction by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), a recognition only 84 schools throughout New York State received. MPHS qualified for this status by having all our varsity teams reach NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team status, which signifies that at least 75 percent of participating varsity athletes on each roster achieve a 90+ GPA for their season of participation. MPHS earned the honor for the third consecutive year and fifth time over the past seven years.

NEW GYM BREAKS GROUND AT AMPS



The construction of a new, state-of-the-art gymnasium is officially underway at Andrew Muller Primary School! At a recent groundbreaking event, Superintendent Lipshie joined with members of District administration, the Board of Education, District Architect Michael Guido, and representatives of RENU Contracting & Restoration to celebrate the occasion.

Sitework has already begun on the gymnasium, and the District has ordered all supplies, including wall components, electric rough-in, plumbing, roofing and brickwork. The site of the new gymnasium was previously home to the kindergarten playground and the Pamela Walz memorial rock and tree. A new kindergarten playground will be installed south of the new gymnasium using both existing and new equipment. The Pamela Walz memorial rock and tree have also been carefully relocated south of the gymnasium.

MILLER PLACE SENIOR MICHAEL GIUGLIANO NAMED AMONG NEWSDAY'S TOP 100 FOOTBALL PLAYERS ON LONG ISLAND

Miller Place High School senior Michael Giugliano was recently named among *Newsday's* top 100 high school football players of 2023. Michael, whose positions include running back and defensive back, amassed 1,181 all-purpose yards last year and is a returning All-Division performer. *Newsday* highlighted his versatile achievements, writing that "he did it all for the Panthers as a junior." Michael rushed for 739 yards, threw for 442 yards, and made 45 tackles.



MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

Board of Education: Lisa Reitan, *President* • Bryan Makarius, *Vice President* • John Galligan, *Trustee*
Andrea Spaniolas, *Trustee* • Johanna Testa, *Trustee* • Shane Lomascolo, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools: Seth A. Lipshie