



The Panther Press

Winter 2024

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

The Business Leaders of Tomorrow:

Miller Place Students Excel at Long Island Regional Trade Show and Business Plan Competition

Students taking Mr. Thomas Frank's Virtual Enterprise class at Miller Place High School know a thing or two about business. So when 39 of them were invited to the Long Island Regional Trade Show and Business Plan Competition, asked to set up a business plan to sell their products, and pitch a business idea to angel investors, they knew they would do well.

In fact, they excelled! Multiple students presented business plans at the trade show.

- Lindsey Galligan and Grace Flammia presented their Fits4Fans, a celebrity-inspired clothing line that boosts the confidence and styles of their customers. Lindsey and Grace placed gold in multiple categories, saw 90 sales transactions, and generated over \$100,000 in sales.
- Jake Ryan and Lucas Damon ran Memory Lane Toy Co., a retro toy store that sold rare and exclusive toys from across past generations. Their toy firm placed gold in the category of "Booth Design," and silver multiple categories, ultimately generating over \$170,000 in sales.



- John Leen and Samuel Cangelosi ran Technology LLC AI Aid, a company which sought to assist individuals through the implication of artificial intelligence. They placed gold in the category of "LI Regional Trade Show Best Booth Competition" and silver in "LI Regional Sales Pitch Competition." The company brought in \$105,609 in sales.

Congratulations to our incredible young entrepreneurs. Our future is in good hands.

A Blizzard of Kindness at NCRMS!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us respect for one another, unity, racial equality and kindness—ideals that Dr. King stressed throughout his life. It was the latter principle—kindness—that was in focus at North Country Road Middle School in January (as well as at Andrew Muller Primary School—see page 4).

Faculty, staff, and students participated in a day celebrating peace and kindness as part of a districtwide initiative to recognize the service of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The day began with a short video that shared the history behind the national holiday. Students were met with music that focused on friendship and kindness between periods in our hallways via the PA system, spurring smiles and conversation about the songs played. During lunch periods, students were given the opportunity to create a shout-out to someone in their lives who always leads with kindness, and place it on our cafeteria wall to create a blizzard of kindness. Teachers, parents, and friends were represented in this visual that inspires reflection about how far kindness can take us!



A Message from Superintendent Seth Lipshie

As we move into the second half of the school year, I am pleased to announce with great excitement and Panther Pride that we successfully completed and finalized the Miller Place UFSD Strategic Plan 2023-2028. The participation and input from the entire Miller Place School District community was greatly appreciated! Please visit and review our strategic plan at the following link: [Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#)

Of course, in addition to rolling out our five-year Strategic Plan, there were many other exciting things happening around the District these last few months.

- **A sensory hallway has been created at AMPS.** Sensory spaces were developed to support students who need help with sensory deficits and sensory sensitivity. It also provides needed movement breaks for all students.
- **Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School fourth-grade classes learned all about energy in science.** After learning about how energy can transfer from one form to another, each class began designing their own solar ovens in groups. In this hands-on activity, the students observed solar energy from the sun being transformed into thermal energy by heating up their ovens.
- **Nine Miller Place High School students, along with music teacher Pat Isenberg, traveled to Europe with the American Music Abroad program for 16 days this summer.** Traveling to six countries and performing six concerts, the students learned a great deal about other cultures and shared the experience alongside over 200 other high school musicians from Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.
- **Professor Tate from Syracuse University's Project Advance was invited to speak to college forensics students.** Drawing from his experience at the Onondaga County, NY crime lab as a latent fingerprint examiner, he discussed the intricacies of latent fingerprints.
- **At MPHS, nine students' artwork will be displayed at the 2023 Suffolk County Community College High School Art Exhibition.** Our students did a great job representing our District and the Art Department at this exhibition. Maya Murphy (10th grade) was awarded the first-place award at the Suffolk County Community College High School Art Exhibition for her sculpture *Noise*. Maya's sculpture was chosen as the first place winner by the faculty of the SCCC Art Department.
- **MPHS students had the exciting opportunity to participate in the American Mathematics Competition (AMC).** Participation in the AMC is not only a chance to engage with complex mathematical concepts but also serves as the starting point for a series of contests that leads to the International Mathematical Olympiad for top scorers.



Patrick Milord, Grade 12



Gavin Sanfilippo, Grade 11



Emma Rosequist, Grade 12

- **Secondary students were recognized for academic excellence with their induction into three different honor societies.** Miller Place High School and North Country Road Middle School honored students for their overall academic excellence and their induction into national honor societies. Our most decorated music students were inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

- **Field Trips**

Seventh grade students participated in an annual field trip dedicated to measuring the health of our local shoreline ecosystem. The classroom moved to Cedar Beach and Sadderly Landing to take samples of the water quality and collect some specimens from the shore using a process called seining, which uses a net to safely collect sea life.

AP Biology students visited Stony Brook University for a hands-on Bacterial Transformation Lab, a key part of their curriculum. Students injected plasmids into bacteria, altering DNA to showcase traits like glowing green or red, and mirroring techniques used in biotech industries such as insulin production. It was a display of real-world science applications in action!

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.



Maya Murphy, Grade 10



Mia Amundsen, Grade 11

A Message from the Board of Education

Over the first half of the academic year, our school district has seen a multitude of engaging events and activities. We couldn't be more thrilled with the abundance of wonderful activities that took place here in Miller Place. Our students are continually showcasing their remarkable talents and achievements. The third quarter has begun, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy and dedication from both our students and faculty. We are continually amazed by our students in all areas of their education.

We want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, supportive staff, diligent administrators, and the ever-supportive parents. Although we don't always agree with one another, we always come together to make Miller Place a community where a diversity of opinions enriches our collective understanding and fosters unity in achieving common goals. Your unwavering commitment to our students' success is truly commendable, and we couldn't do it without you all!

As we gear up for the upcoming budget season, we encourage everyone to mark their calendars for the important dates of upcoming budget meetings and workshops. Your input and participation are invaluable.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education we would like to thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students. Forever Miller Place Proud!

Ms. Lisa Reitan
Miller Place Board of Education President

AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

AMPS HONORS DR. KING

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Andrew Muller Primary School students spent Friday, January 12th involved in educational activities that encouraged and taught peace and kindness. Students were welcomed by their teachers with a personal greeting chosen from the greeting menu. During morning meetings, classes discussed kindness as well as how Dr. King wanted all people to have equal rights and to be treated fairly based on the kind of person they were, not what they looked like.

Discussions were held about how kindness starts with caring about others. For a writing activity, students wrote about why a classmate is kind on a colored heart that was then turned into grade-level rainbows, hung in the school for all to see. Each grade level additionally conducted age-appropriate science experiments that celebrated unity. For example, kindergarteners examined how brown eggs and white eggs look different on the outside, but are the same on the inside. In first grade, students discussed the same topic using green and red apples, while second graders used carnations and food coloring dye.



The day ended with the entire school coming together to sing “You Can Count On Me.” Thank you to the members of the SIT Committee for organizing this wonderful day, and to music teacher Ms. Rowburey for her invaluable help with the singing performance.

LADSBS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM ANNOUNCES NEW CHALLENGE THAT HELPS STUDENTS EXPLORE THE INCREDIBLE WORLD OF LITERATURE

The Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School recently launched The Million Word Challenge, a fun and engrossing program that encourages students to explore literature. A voluntary program open to all students, the Million Word Challenge began on December 15th, 2023 and will run until March 1st, 2024.

Here's how the reading challenge works: Each participating student is encouraged to complete a reading log once they finish reading a book. The reading log will be used to record the titles of the books they read, the number of words in the book (using wordcounters.com), and a brief review. Once a book is logged, the word count will be tallied and added to the class's total. To

motivate our students, we will be offering incentives for the class that reaches 1 million words first. All classes and their progress will be displayed on a large bulletin board outside of the main office.

At the end of the challenge, we will organize a special reading celebration to honor the achievements of all of our students. We believe that the Million Word Challenge may not only help our students become better readers, but also encourage a lifelong love for reading. The love of reading is one of the most valuable gifts we can give our students, and this challenge is designed to support that goal!



AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

MO' MATH FOR NCRMS

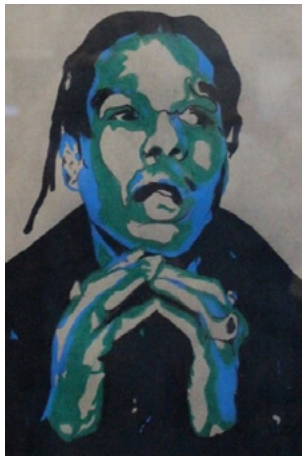
In December, just before the holiday break, North Country Road Middle School students participated in the MoMathlon Middle School Math Tournament at Brookhaven National Lab. An annual event, the MoMathlon provides students “the opportunity to compete in unique middle school math tournaments.” NCRMS students tackled three rounds of problems—individual, team, and mix-up—testing their math skills and teamwork across a variety of math challenges.



The day was filled with learning, as expert educators led solution discussions alongside brain teasers and warm-up activities. And of course, NCRMS students not only competed—they excelled! They bonded over shared challenges, celebrating their participation with certificates and top scorers entering an exciting tiebreaker round. Kudos to all for their mathematical prowess and team spirit! Special thanks to Mr. Nicholas Corleto, Ms. Deana DeRosa, Ms. Corinne D’Andrea, and Ms. Maureen Radday for their help making this tournament possible.

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FEATURED AT SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ART EXHIBITION

Everyone in the Miller Place School District is well aware of the amazing talent found in Miller Place High School’s art classes, but now all of Suffolk County is experiencing MPHS’ incredible work firsthand. A total of nine high school students were chosen to have their artwork displayed at Suffolk Community College’s 13th annual High School Art Exhibition at its Sagtikos Art Gallery. Additionally, sophomore Maya Murphy was awarded first place for her sculpture, *Noise!* This is a very prestigious award; we are all so proud of Maya and her well-deserved accolade.



Mary Duffy, Grade 12



Gisela Killary, Grade 12

Joining Maya Murphy, Senior Patrick Milord, Junior Mia Amundsen, Sophomore Amelia Avalos, Junior Samantha Selfridge, Senior Mary Duffy, Senior Gisela Killary, Junior Gavin Sanfilippo, and Senior Emma Rosequist were also featured. The Sagtikos Art Gallery, on the Michael J. Grant campus in Brentwood, regularly showcases exhibitions featuring contemporary fine art, photography and crafts by local artists. It regularly hosts high school exhibitions to recognize the talent and diversity of artists at local high schools.

“Our amazing art students represented Miller Place with pride and demonstrated a remarkable and diverse selection of high-quality artwork. We congratulate them on their amazing achievements!”

- Superintendent of Schools Seth Lipshie

MUSIC NEWS

A SEASON OF MUSIC AT MILLER PLACE



Pictured are the Miller Place High School musicians selected to participate in the Long Island String Festival held recently at Hauppauge High School. Left-to-right are: Nailah Rahman, Andy Luo, Jacob Huwer, Alan Yue, Emma Rosequist, Bianca Zou, and Mia Carvajal.



The Choral and Jazz students were this year's Top Winner of the Miller Place High School Door Holiday door decorating contest. Our congratulations to Dr. Reinhardt and her students!



Ms. O'Connor's Laddie A. Decker's fourth grade class learning how to play ukuleles under the tutelage of music teacher Mr. Vogelsberg.

Kindergarten Registration in Miller Place

MARCH 4 – MARCH 22, 2024 • BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Miller Place School District is holding Kindergarten Registration at the Miller Place Central Office. Residents who have a child or children who are five years old on or before December 1, 2024 will be eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year.

Registration is by appointment only and will begin Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 22 by appointment only. Please register at: <https://calendly.com/schoolsignup/miller-place-school-district-kindergarten-regis-clone?month=2024-03>

Please complete the registration packet prior to your registration appointment and have the required supporting documentation readily available at the time of the appointment. Information regarding required forms are available at: <https://resources.finalse.net/images/v1706201687/millerplacek12nyus/knrocvm1f3nkvmeptyz2/DistrictRegistrationPacket2024-25.pdf>
Incomplete registration packets will not be accepted and you may be asked to reschedule. For more information regarding the registration process, please call Elizabeth Cascione at 631-474-2700 ext. 728.

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, NY 11764

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