



The Panther Press

Summer 2024

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.millerplace.k12.ny.us

SCENES FROM GRADUATION

As the academic year drew to a close, the Miller Place community gathered together to celebrate the achievements and success of the class of 2024. Their journey to this moment has been one of growth, perseverance and determination, marked by countless achievements earned both inside and outside the classroom. Each graduate has left an indelible mark on our school community through their unique talents, unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence. Congratulations!



A Message from Superintendent Seth Lipshie

On behalf of the Miller Place School District Administration and staff, I would like to congratulate the class of 2024 on their recent high school graduation. It was my privilege to have the opportunity to address the class of 2024 and Miller Place School District's 50th graduating class. You will see throughout this newsletter the impressive academic success and scholarships awarded to many students of the class of 2024. It was very exciting as a community to have the opportunity to celebrate this significant milestone in the history of Miller Place School District. We were fortunate to be joined by former District Administrators and alumni from the class of 1975. The keynote speaker was former Miller Place School District teacher, coach, principal and superintendent, Mr. Raymond Sommerstad.

Over the summer we will prepare our buildings and orient new staff for the opening of schools. We have restructured administrative staff to provide strong instruction and support for our students as part of the Strategic Plan that focuses on student success. The District will continue Bond construction work that includes work on the new Andrew Muller Primary School gymnasium.

This fall we will welcome our newest students to Andrew Muller Primary School as the class of 2038 while our next senior class of 2025 prepares for their final journey in Miller Place. I look forward to working with students, parents, guardians and staff to continue to improve our student success and continue to make Miller Place the best possible District. I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Seth Lipshie
Superintendent of Schools

A Message from the Board of Education

As we welcome the warmth and joy of summer, I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt greetings to each of you. This past school year has been filled with remarkable achievements across our District. Our students have excelled academically, athletically and artistically, showcasing their hard work and dedication in countless ways.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education we would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2024. Your perseverance and commitment have brought you to this significant milestone, and we are immensely proud of your accomplishments. As you embark on new and exciting journeys, remember that you will always be a cherished part of our community.

We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to our teachers, administration and staff. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made this year a success, and your impact on our students' lives is immeasurable. To all our students, thank you for your enthusiasm, resilience and eagerness to learn. You are the heart of our community, and your growth inspires us all. Finally, to our parents and community members, your support and partnership are invaluable. Together, we create a nurturing and dynamic environment that fosters learning and growth.

Summer is a time for relaxation, exploration and rejuvenation. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to enjoy new experiences, spend time with loved ones and recharge for the year ahead.

Thank you all for your continued support. We are Miller Place Proud!

Wishing you a safe, happy and enriching summer!

Lisa Reitan
President, Board of Education

CLASS OF 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

ANDREW MCMORRIS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Edward Beaudry
Thomas Como
Jack Serrentino

ARLETTE CONKLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Eliot Hornback
Maris Lynch

ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Olivia Bloom
Olivia Honkanen

BROOKHAVEN SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Analynn Bisiani

CALACE FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD

Christopher Barton
Sophie Lin
Maxime Tchoubar

CATHERINE DANOWSKI SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

Joseph Ritieni

COMEBACK KID SCHOLARSHIP

Lucas Jefferson

CRAIG ARAUJO STUDENT OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

Emily Hofmann

DR. GRACE BRINDLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Madison Adler

JAMES AND MATTHEW MCNULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Ava Rado

JAMES RAKOWSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

James Loughlin

JASON RUPPENSTEIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Logan Grant

JOE KEANY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Gabrielle Alexander
Christopher Barton
Evan Skoblicki

JOHN DOUGLAS MEMORIAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher Barton
Madison Hall

JOHN MAHONEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Olivia Bloom

JOSHUA FAITHFULL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Gabriella Flammia

JUDY STAMATIS-KOPELMAN SPIRIT OF COMPETITION SCHOLARSHIP

Julia Murphy
Joseph Strickland

LONG ISLAND BLOOD SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP

Mari-Rose Holmes
Ava Johnson

LONG ISLAND TEACHER'S BENEVOLENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Mari-Rose Holmes

LONIGRO FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

John Leen

"MISS MARGIE" MARCHAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Madison Amendola
Kiera Witherell

MCNULTY BUSINESS LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

Jake Ryan

MILLER PLACE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION IDEAL ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP

Nicolette Capocci
Logan LaMountain

MILLER PLACE CLERICAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kyle Elliott
Sophia Ingenito

MILLER PLACE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS~ART SCHOLARSHIP

Gisela Killary
Patrick Milord
Mia Riley

MILLER PLACE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS~CRAIG VON BARGEN MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Hope Jacobsen

MILLER PLACE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP

Gisela Killary
Isabella Romero

MILLER PLACE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS~MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Bernard Creedon
Mary Duffy
Phoenix Guasto
Jack Serrentino

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP

Jamie Crovello

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher Barton
Nicolette Capocci

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE/ MUNISTAT SERVICES, INC.

Christopher Barton
Joseph Ritieni

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL/ SOUND BEACH MUSIC

Emma Rosequist
Jay Sun

MILLER PLACE HOMEMAKER'S SCHOLARSHIP

Grace Sierra

NYSNAME SCHOLARSHIP

William Becherer

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL DEDICATION SCHOLARSHIP

Shane Lomascolo

PAMELA WALTZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Owen Neyland

PANTHER PRIDE SCHOLARSHIPSeth Law
Maris Lynch**PATRICIA LATHAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Aaron Wang

THE PENDERGAST FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Owen Neyland

PORT JEFFERSON DENTAL GROUP SCHOLARSHIP

Madison Hall

RICHARD W. SANDERS JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP

Molly Caufield

ROSE TUFARO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sabrina Moro

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPJack Anderson
Christopher Barton
Nicholas Nania**SCMEA**

Alan Yue

SCOPE SUPERINTENDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Owen Neyland

SEAN KING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Lina Portnoy

SHARON & MARGAUX BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scott Newman

SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS SCHOLARSHIPRayna Bruno
Brian-Anthony Dement**TONY KOWALSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Sarah DiPersio

TRIPLE "A" SCHOLARSHIP

Mia Riley

VICKY LOPEZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Olivia Honkanen

WALTER P. MCCOYD OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Giugliano, Sophia Ingenito

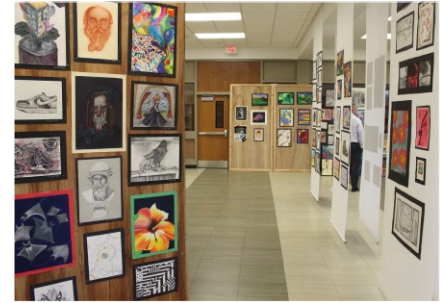
Where to Next?

In addition to entering the workforce and beginning terms of service, many graduates of the class of 2024 are continuing their education at some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country. From renowned Ivy League institutions to celebrated liberal arts colleges and leading research universities, our graduates have been accepted to a diverse array of esteemed institutions. Please join us in congratulating them and taking a look at where the class of 2024 is headed next.

Alfred State College
American International College
Appalachian State University
Binghamton University
Coastal Carolina University
Cornell University
Drew University
East Carolina University
Farmingdale State College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Five Towns College
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Institute of Technology
Hofstra University
Johnson & Wales University
Le Moyne College
Long Island Beauty SchoolLong Island University
Longwood University
Manhattan College
Marist College
Marshall University
Marywood University
McGill University
Mercer University
Merrimack College
Misericordia University
New England Institute of Technology
Pennsylvania State University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers UniversitySacred Heart University
Siena College
Southern Connecticut State University
St. Joseph's University
Stony Brook University
Suffolk County Community College
SUNY Brockport
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Delhi
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY Maritime College
SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Oswego
SUNY Potsdam
Temple University
Trade School
University at AlbanyUniversity at Buffalo
University of Alabama
University of Bridgeport
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Massachusetts
University of Miami
University of Mount St. Vincent
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Tampa
University of Vermont
Villanova University
Western New England University

MUSIC AND ARTS NEWS

The Miller Place Art Department closed the books on another great year with the Miller Place High School and the North Country Road Middle School art shows. Students, families and community members gathered to support student artists and view some incredible works. We'd like to thank Nina Wood, Jefferey Corbett, Elise Stasi, Sara Miranda, and Stacey Famiglietti for their hard work in displaying the middle and high school artworks. We also congratulate all participants on a successful year of art shows and exhibits!



The Art Department would also like to congratulate Gisela Killary, Patrick Milord and Emma Rosequist, all graduating seniors. Gisela Killary won an award for excellence at the Parrish Art Museum as well as scholarships from Friends of the Arts and Suffolk County Art Leaders Association. She will be studying painting at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City this fall. Patrick Milford won an award for excellence at the Parrish Art Museum and a scholarship from Friends of the Arts. He will be attending Stony Brook University to pursue a degree in education and the arts. Emma Rosequist won an award at the 2024 Suffolk County Art Leaders Association Student Exhibition and will be attending the University of Connecticut studying art, music and theater. The District looks forward to what the future holds for these young artists.

North Country Road Middle School Amazes with *High School Musical II*

This spring, North Country Road Middle School welcomed students, teachers and families to a delightful production of *High School Musical II*. Adapted from the popular series of movies, the school's rendition captivated audiences with its creativity and charm. Vibrant costumes and imaginative set designs were a testament to the dedication of all involved. Behind the scenes, the tech crew and stage managers ensured a flawless production, adding to the enchantment with expertly managed lights, sound and props. The performance not only entertained, but also inspired, showcasing the transformative power of creativity and teamwork. Congratulations to everyone who contributed!



ATHLETICS NEWS

Honoring a Legend: Don Pranzo Field Dedicated at Miller Place

Don Pranzo was a pioneer in the Athletics Department at Miller Place School District. A member of our school community since 1955, Don was a trailblazing baseball coach, and during his tenure, he established Miller Place as a formidable presence in Suffolk County baseball. This spring, Miller Place christened its varsity baseball field as the Don Pranzo Field in recognition of his remarkable legacy. Recently, the District community gathered for a heartfelt dedication ceremony where Mr. Pranzo, surrounded by current varsity baseball team members, shared words of inspiration.



Mr. Pranzo began his tenure at Miller Place in 1955, coaching twelve sports at the junior high level before becoming the inaugural Athletic Administrator in 1969 and serving as the varsity baseball coach for 20 years. During his coaching tenure from the early 1970s through 1989 and again from 2003 to 2006, his leadership led the team to seven league titles, two county championships, one Long Island championship, and a second-place finish in the state in 1985. He received Coach of the Year honors seven times for his unwavering commitment and coaching achievements.

MOVING-UP AT NCRMS

On June 21st, grade 8 students at North Country Road Middle School celebrated the school's 21st annual Moving Up Awards Ceremony. Students were invited to the high school gymnasium, a spacious venue symbolizing their transition to a new school. Each student received a promotion certificate and a folder with awards from each department. Mr. Seth Lipshie gave an inspiring Superintendent's address, and faculty members presented special awards. Congratulations to Ava Cosenzo and Matt Francese, winners of the Triple C (Character, Courage, Commitment) Award. Other awards included the Long Island Language Teachers Awards (Sarah Djiofack and Jonathan Savino), the Joan E. Maraglio Award for Social Studies (William Moy), the NYS Comptroller Achievement Award (Fei Shi Zhong), and the County Executive Public Service Award (Audrey Keller-Schwab). Audrey, the student government president, delivered a speech reflecting on their years at North Country Road and looking ahead to high school.



The 8th Grade Moving-Up Dance took place on June 24th at Majestic Gardens in Rocky Point, a new venue after the Miller Place Inn closed. The setting featured a central dance floor and ample seating, with a patio area for students to enjoy. It was a successful event celebrating three years of middle school. Many thanks to all involved! Both culminating events marked the transition from middle school to the exciting journey of high school. Our faculty and staff wish the class of 2028 the very best of luck in the future!

AMPS AND LADSBS CELEBRATE MOVING-UP DAYS



On June 18th, Andrew Muller Primary School (AMPS) celebrated its second-grade students moving up with a day full of activities and memorable moments. The day began with games of kickball and relay races, followed by photo sessions, visor decorating, and tile creation. Each student crafted a tile to be displayed in the school along with a class photo, to be retrieved when they return as seniors. The celebrations continued with a heartwarming musical performance directed by Ms. Rowburrey, featuring songs like "America the Beautiful,"

"You Can Count on Me," "The AMPS Song," and "Moving on Up to the Third Grade."

On June 10th, the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS) held its 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, celebrating the end of the students' time at LADSBS and their transition to North Country Road Middle School. This event highlighted the achievements and growth of each student. During the ceremony, each student was

individually announced along with their chosen word for the "My Intent Project," reflecting their values and aspirations. Words such as "Courage," "Perseverance," "Kindness," and "Competitive" symbolized their personal commitments. The highlight of the event was the class's spirited performance of "The Eye of the Tiger," showcasing their talents and readiness to face new challenges with confidence and determination.



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