



EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL NEWSLETTER 2023



El Hosts **Ambassadors of Compassion Kickoff**

East Islip High School hosted the Ambassadors of Compassion program kickoff on a rainy Aug. 25 at Sal Ciampi Field at Boomer Esiason Stadium. The event included 24 school districts and almost 2,000 student-athletes.

The Ambassadors of Compassion program aims to open lines of communication, with the goal to provide student-athletes with the skills necessary to speak to their peers and overcome today's challenges, as well as empower them for lifelong success. East Islip High School completed the program during the previous academic year.

Speakers included Ambassadors of Compassion founder Eric Hannah and his wife Jody Hannah, Sayville High School graduate and former Wisconsin and Notre Dame quarterback Jack Coan, Super Bowl champion and television analyst Spencer Tillman, "Boomer & Gio" radio talk show host Gregg Giannotti and "Fast and Furious" actor Noel Gugliemi.

"I definitely liked that even though it was raining, everyone was still there and happy to be there and to be involved," student Kara Marshall said.

"It was a good experience," student Elizabeth Rodriguez said. "It showed you how to chase your goals. It's about not giving up, not stopping chasing after your dreams. It also taught me to forgive, because holding onto grudges holds you back. Life's going to be tough, but don't use excuses to not become the best version of yourself."

"It was nice to interact with different schools and a whole bunch of different people with the same goal of making everyone stronger," student Alyssa Charles said.

"I'd love to do it again," student Adrianna Belsito said. "The event was a lot of fun and it was great having so many schools coming together to learn about the program."

"It was good to spread the message of the Ambassadors program to so many other schools," student Brendan Charles said.

"Witnessing the participation of nearly 2,000 students from over 18 Suffolk County school districts is not just inspiring, it's a testament to the bright future we can look forward to from our youth," East Islip Superintendent Paul Manzo said. "Our East Islip High School students represented our district well and with true EI Pride. This event is a celebration of compassion, unity and the power of our young adults, and it was a privilege to host it. Let's continue to support these ambassadors of compassion, as they are the leaders of a kinder, more compassionate world."



Message *from the* BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

Welcome back! We look forward to another great school year for our students, faculty and staff. With the beginning of this school year, I want to take a moment to recognize some changes throughout the district. There have been several internal changes in roles, and we are excited to see how those shifts impact our district. We have new members of our leadership team, administrators, teachers, professional and supporting staff. They bring new perspectives and ideas, which will add to the district on its path for excellence in academics while also maintaining a balance of social-emotional well-being for all students and staff.

This past summer, the district held a successful enrichment program, which was well attended and received positive feedback from our community. Many thanks to the efforts of our administrative

team and teachers for making this program possible. Additionally, the district held summer school programs and hosted the Town of Islip camps, which many of our students participated in. At the elementary schools, the district expanded extracurricular activities, providing additional clubs and programs for the students.

As the bond project is coming to a close, the district remains committed to improving the district's buildings and grounds to provide a safe and effective learning environment for our students and staff.

Through the remaining bond work the district was able to:

- Provide air conditioning for more classrooms throughout the district.
- Finish curb and paving work throughout the district to improve safety.

- Improve bathrooms at the nurse's offices at all elementary buildings.
- Renovate the main lobby and create a sports lobby at the high school.

The construction of a new bus loop for the high school is underway, which will improve safety for students and staff. The replacement of the gym floor at the high school is finished, and it truly does exemplify our community pride in East Islip.

As Board president, and on behalf of the Board of Education, we are committed to continue to work with our families and students to provide the best educational experiences and academic offerings.

Sincerely,
Michael Dorgan
President, Board of Education

What Is **EI PRIDE?**

EI Pride is more than just a saying, it's a unifying notion that connects our students, staff and community. Let's hear what it means to some of our EI family:

Click on this QR code to watch the new EI Pride video!



"EI Pride, to me, means that our community is always together and that we are an accepting and welcoming town that believes our collective focus should be on lifelong learning."
JFK Principal
Deborah Smith



"EI Pride means everything to me. It always stood out to me that our community was great and they always believed in us and everything we could do."
EIHS senior
Sebastian Regis



"It's really fun here and when you go here, I'm sure on the first day you're going to smile."
RCK third grader
Kerrigan Bloom

East Islip Is First Long Island HS to Offer **Stony Brook ACE Art Credits**

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, East Islip High School will be the first Long Island school to offer college credit to art students through Stony Brook University's Accelerated College Education program. The ACE program offers academically talented high school students the convenience of enrolling in Stony Brook University courses taught in their high school, which can be later applied as credits toward a degree at Stony Brook or transferred to another college or university.

The idea began in 2021, after East Islip Director of Art and Music Dr. Rob Wottawa formed a relationship with SBU ACE Program coordinators through his work with East Islip's world language department. During the 2022-2023 school year, the art department reviewed its art course curriculums to determine which courses aligned with SBU courses and began developing a syllabus for Photography I and Digital Imaging and Design I. After a year of working alongside SBU, East Islip was approved to offer college credit to its art students.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to pursue my goals in graphic design and advertising and earn college credit here at East Islip High School before I graduate," National Art Honor Society president Sophie Jensen said.

"It is an amazing opportunity that Stony Brook offers college-level curriculum while students are still in high school, and I have the honor of teaching it," art teacher Heather Toomey said. "I look forward to this wonderful partnership and hope it continues to grow."



Dr. John Genova Named New Math and Science Director

The East Islip School District has appointed Dr. John Genova as the new math and science director, effective Aug. 21. He replaces Michael Hansen, currently the principal of East Islip Middle School. Dr. Genova had served as the coordinator of mathematics K-12 at the Syosset Central School District from 2017-2023. He previously worked as the coordinator of math K-12 at the Middle Country School District from 2016-2017, and as a math teacher at North Babylon High School from 2007-2016.



"I'm excited to join a great team and support student achievement and growth in both math and science at East Islip," Dr. Genova said. "We're going to build upon the success that's taken place here and advance together."

Kristen Rea Appointed Director of Special Education

Kristen Rea was appointed director of special education, effective July 10. She comes to East Islip from the Southampton School District, where she served as a special education associate. Rea previously worked as a speech language pathologist in Southampton and before that, at the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf.



"Originally, I went into education as a speech language pathologist because I wanted to help students communicate," Rea said. "As a director of special education, I can continue my passion by empowering educators to improve their craft. I am thankful for the East Islip School District for giving me this opportunity."

NEWS AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

the themes began on Monday with students encouraged to say hello to someone new during each passing period throughout the day. On Tuesday, students wore neon to “Stand Out Against Bullying,” and were asked to sit near someone new in class or in the cafeteria. For “Color Day” on Wednesday, students wore green (for the Sandy Hook Promise) or orange (the symbol of gun violence prevention) to school. “Random Acts of Kindness Day” was on Thursday, with students sporting crazy socks or hair and demonstrating acts of kindness to someone in the building. Finally, for “Be a Team Player” on Friday, students wore East Islip apparel and colors to show they are all on the same team. Meanwhile, at Connetquot Elementary School, kindergartners, first graders and second graders participated in their own themed days including Got Kindness Tuesday, Superhero Theme Thursday and EI Pride Friday.

“The goal of Start With Hello is for students to exhibit kindness towards others and build a sense of community,” Connetquot Principal Nicolas Bilotti said.

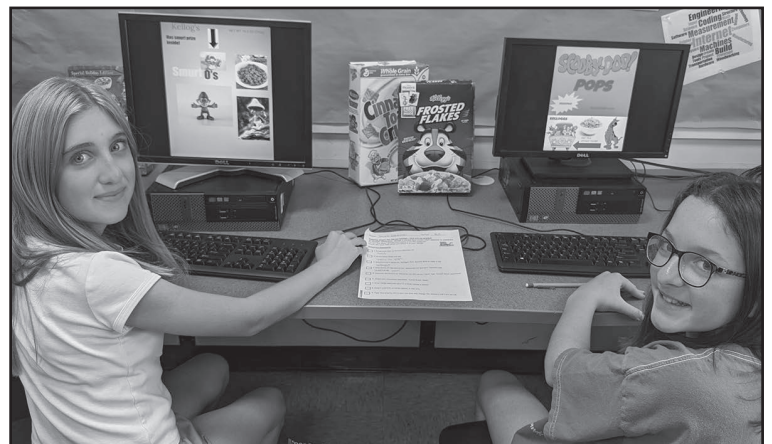


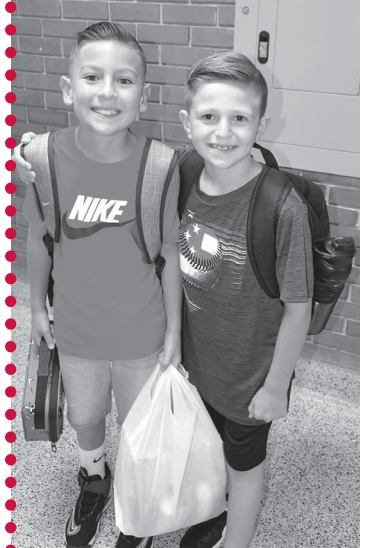
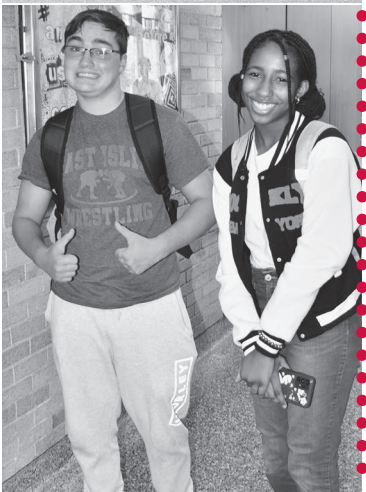
Timber Point Second Graders Celebrate Significance of Patriot Day

Timber Point Elementary School celebrated Patriot Day on Sept. 11, when second graders in Victoria Burns’ class, wearing red, white and blue, learned about the significance of Patriot Day, first responders and the military; talked about what it means to be a hero; and created a beautiful collaborative Never Forget mural.

Seventh Graders Design Cereal Box Layouts in Tech Class

East Islip Middle School seventh graders in technology teacher Pamela Avella’s classes are learning about media literacy and graphic communications. The students recently worked on their own cereal box designs, creating their layouts using the formatting tools in Google Slides.





An
 * Amazing *
 * FIRST DAY *
 * of *
 * SCHOOL *
 IN EAST ISLIP *

Smiling students returned to East Islip's schools on a sunny Sept. 6, ready to start the next chapter in their educational journeys.



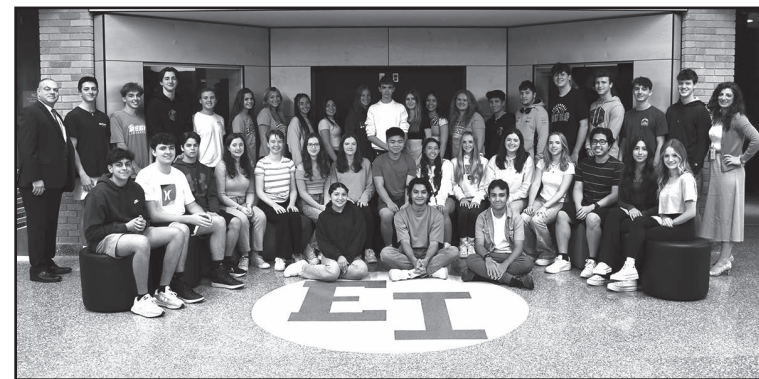
NEWS AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

Connetquot's "Bucket Fillers" Honored for Good Deeds

The weekly Bucket Filler contest at Connetquot Elementary School gives students a chance to earn bucket filler tickets for performing good deeds, completing their work and being a good friend. The school then holds a drawing every Friday, selecting two winning students per grade to come to the office and receive prizes.



"The high school music teachers are extremely proud of all of these talented musicians," Choral Director Bethany Affelt said. "The NYSSMA All-State Conference is a wonderful way for these dedicated and hardworking students to be recognized for their efforts. We are sure that these students will have an amazing experience during this four-day conference, culminating in a series of concerts in early December."



East Islip Recognizes 38 AP Scholars for 2023

East Islip High School recognized 38 current students for earning the College Board's AP Scholar designation for 2023, recognizing their academic excellence and diligence in college-level achievement in AP courses and exams. The Advanced Placement Program recognizes several different award levels.

Twenty-one students – Lucas Antunes, Jackelyn Arevalo-Carrillo, Alexandra Benavides, Mairead Cardillo, Victoria Crowell, Alana Curran, Alyssa Deutsch, Mikayla Horton, Emma Johnson, Shazaib Khan, Connor King, Patrick Koch, Helena Locke, Jason Lopez, Lorelai Mucciolo, Kathryn O'Rourke, Mary Ranzie, Hanna Ross, Ian Schneider, Jack Sturek and Jack Wodicka – were named AP Scholars, granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Nine students – Logan Beaumont, Kailyn Bloch, Sean Carey, Lance Joshua Enriquez, Ayana Frigiola, William Miller, Gabrielle Procaccini, Travis Stockton and Jake Vessalico – were named AP Scholars with Honor, granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Eight students – Julia Fink, Kevin Huang, Jack Milligan, Jesse Najera, Kathryn O'Hara, Shannon O'Rourke, Luciana

Ponciolo and Patrick Vasquez – were named AP Scholars with Distinction, granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

"We are proud of our AP scholars who have worked hard to attain this recognition," Principal Mark Bernard said. "We know that they will continue to achieve greatness in all their future endeavors."

JFK's LEGO Girls Take on Innovation Challenge

The LEGO Girls, East Islip's FIRST Lego League competition team consisting of John F. Kennedy Elementary School fifth graders Jayne Elliott, Sonali Kamath and Antonia Rezza, started their season by researching this year's FIRST Innovation Challenge of showcasing how best to create an immersive report on a topic that they are passionate about. The East Islip trio chose to explore how museums and theaters work cohesively to tell a grand story.

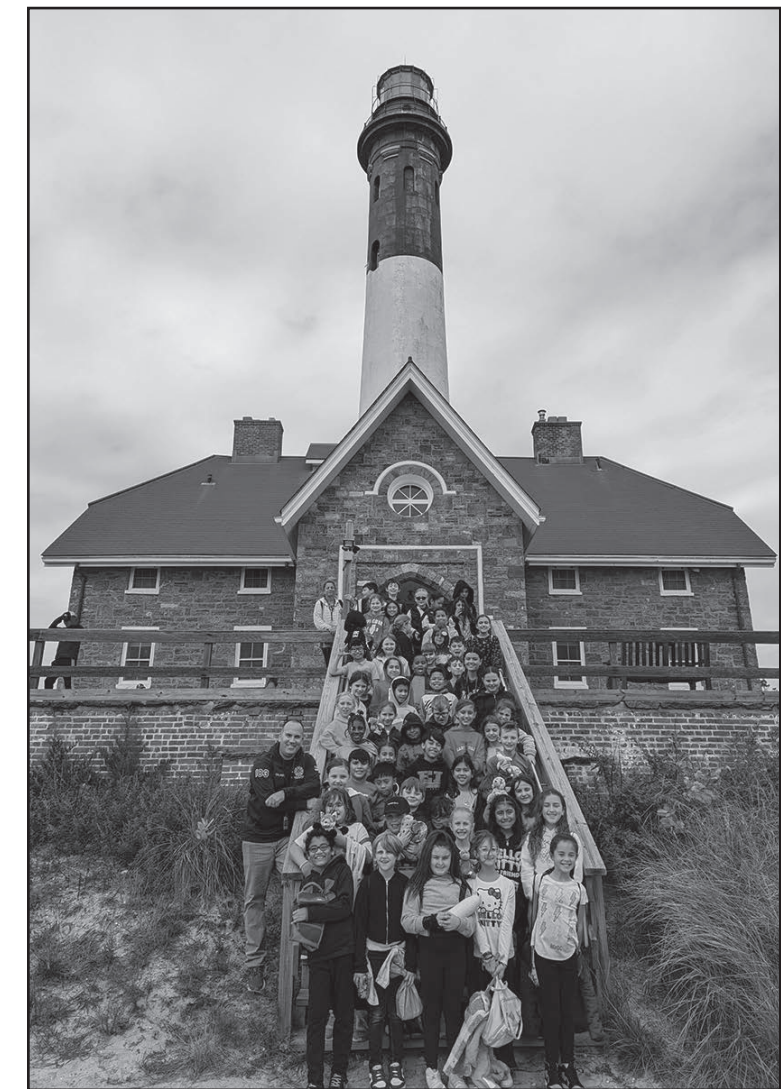
Their project research began with a trip to the Oakdale Performing Arts Center to learn from the cast and crew of "Into the Woods." The team met with several members of the cast and crew, including the stage manager and music and set directors, and even went behind the scenes to tour the changing room and costume area and view the set itself while it was being built.



RCK Students End Busy September With a Movie Night

Students at Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School had a busy September, out and about learning about Long Island and more. The entire third grade took their yearly trip to

Safety Town, while fourth graders visited the Fire Island Lighthouse. To end the month, RCK held an indoor movie night for over 100 students on Sept. 28, hosted by the school's PTA.



Start With Hello Connects Students Across East Islip

The East Islip School District celebrated Start With Hello Week from Sept. 18-22, offering students daily themes and activities to promote kindness and friendship. The Sandy Hook Promise's Start with Hello program serves to raise awareness and educates students about social isolation and how to create a connected and inclusive classroom, school and community.

At East Islip High School and East Islip Middle School,

Talented EIHS Student-Musicians Recognized With All-State Nods

East Islip High School student-musicians Ryan Flad (trumpet) and Kevin Huang (violin) recently earned All-State designation from the New York State School Music Association. Flad and Huang will perform with the All-State Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra ensembles, respectively, in December at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester.

Three other East Islip students, violinist Richard LaSpina, tuba player Samuel Martinez and alto vocalist Lorelai Mucciolo, were named NYSSMA alternates.

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Mark Your Calendar For our Upcoming Events

- Oct. 21 – Homecoming: Parade starts at 10 a.m.;
Game at 1 p.m.
- Oct. 30 – HS College Fair 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3-4 – HS Drama Production – Game of
Tiaras 7 p.m.
- Nov. 8 – Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.
- Nov. 18-19 – HS PTSA Craft Fair 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 4 – MS Gr. 6 Concert 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 – MS Gr. 7 Concert 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11 – RCK Gr. 5 Concert 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12 – JFK Gr. 5 Concert 7 p.m.
- Dec. 13 – MS Gr. 8 Concert 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 – Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 & 19 – HS Concert 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 11 – Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.

This message is from the East Islip School District Cafeteria Program. As we embark upon the start of the 2023-2024 school year, the district is pleased to announce a new school lunch initiative.

Due to a temporary increase in state and federal aid received over the past few years related to COVID-19, the district has the necessary funding available to launch a “Free Lunch Friday” program. Beginning Sept. 29 and each subsequent Friday that school is in session, students can select one regular-priced meal from the posted lunch menu and not be charged for it. This initiative is temporary and will last as long as funds remain available. Hope your student is able to join us for a free lunch on Free Lunch Friday!

FACILITIES UPDATE

Checklist of completed crucial bond projects:

- High school gym floor replaced.
- Districtwide air conditioning installed.
- Districtwide curb and paving work done.
- Elementary nurse’s office bathrooms improved.
- High school main lobby renovated and new sports lobby created.

STAY CONNECTED!



To help community members keep informed of district happenings, upcoming events and more, we invite you to sign up for our East Islip School District Community Contact email blast and follow us on social media!

Scan the QR code to the left to join our community email blast. If you are a parent of a current student you are already enrolled in our district eblast system.

Be sure to hit the like, follow and subscribe button for each of our social media pages. They include the following:



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Visit our website at www.eischools.org

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This newsletter is published by the Board of Education as a community service to inform the public of school news and business. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 631-224-2000 or fax 631-581-1617.