



News Bulletin

EAST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2014

A MESSAGE FROM

Linda J. Rozzi, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Residents:

This autumn is particularly superb, as the sign of trees becoming more colorful and the air turning a bit crisper means our schools are now in full swing. The fall season also represents an exciting time filled with wonderful energy, hope and resolve.

In reflecting upon these first three months of the school year, I am particularly pleased with the reconfiguration of our four elementary schools. Aside from some transportation issues that were resolved, all four buildings reverberate with youthful energy as new students and staff successfully make the transition a positive one.

As we continue into the fall season, we will remain centered on strategic planning and improved communication with all constituents. Our five priority areas to help guide our work in making East Islip a

premier district on Long Island remain the same: 1) high academic standards, 2) safe school climate, 3) fiscal responsibility, 4) technologically advanced schools and 5) transparent communication.

A list of specific 2014-2015 SMART goals for each priority will be unveiled soon – look for it on the district website under the Board of Education District Strategic Plan tab.

We have a committed faculty and staff who are responsible for creating pathways for learning and bringing out each student's unique gifts. Developing students who are engaged in our classrooms, stages, athletic fields and community reaffirms the extent to which we have been successful in achieving our mission. It is, after all, what binds us together as a school community.

As we build on our fall momentum and navigate our way through the year, we look forward to partnering with our families and greater community. That partnership is a critical component of our commitment to provide our children with school days filled with meaningful learning, the excitement of discovery and the pride that comes with working hard. Schools are a reflection of a community, and in East Islip, the success

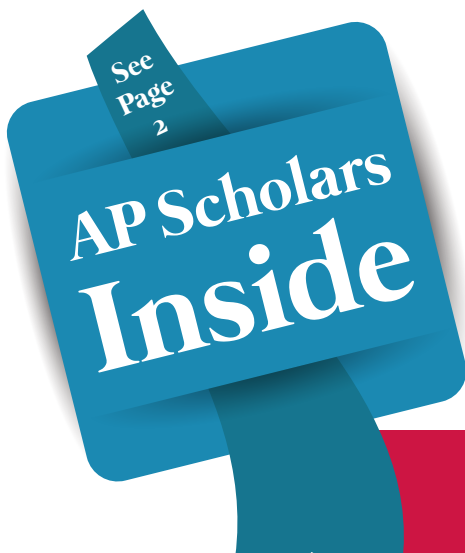
of our students comes as a result of the unwavering support of our families, residents and dedicated faculty and staff.

Although the current economic climate poses a challenge, I have no doubt that we will work together to sustain the level of achievement and progress in our schools. With increasing state mandates, a greater financial burden has been shifted to all communities. We will respond by using our resources wisely and building the capacity of our staff to withstand the even greater demands of the future.

I invite you to use our interactive website to remain updated on events in our schools. The Virtual Backpack system is a terrific resource to locate important school notices, and a new Video Library homepage link has been launched to highlight great video clips about our district. As always, we welcome the community at all of our student performances and athletic events.

You may contact the district office at 631-224-2010 or email me directly at lrozzi@eischools.org. I welcome your suggestions as to how the district can better serve your needs.

Yours in education,
Linda J. Rozzi, Superintendent of Schools



2014 AP SCHOLARS EXCEL

Nine outstanding seniors – Nicholas Buquicchio, Krista Cook, Derek Dattero, Lauren Farrell, Rebecca Fitzmaurice, Joseph Guadagno, Thomas Leddy, Valli Manni and Joseph Prato – have earned AP Scholar with Distinction honors for 2014 from the College Board, along with eight recent graduates.

In order to be recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction, a student must receive an average score of at least 3.5 on their Advanced Placement exams and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Several different award levels are offered by the College Board's AP Program, all recognizing academically strong students who display college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. These exams are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 3 or higher qualifying students for college credit. East Islip boasted 57 Scholars in total for 2014.

A dozen students were named 2014 AP Scholars with Honor, including



(Clockwise from top left) East Islip seniors Joseph Prato, Thomas Leddy, Joseph Guadagno, Nicholas Buquicchio, Derek Dattero, Valli Manni, Rebecca Fitzmaurice, Lauren Farrell and Krista Cook were named 2014 AP Scholars with Distinction.

current seniors Benjamin Acosta, Katie Bunde, Tyler Clehane, Raymond Filippone, Amanda Healy and Kristen Tomasini, as well as six graduates. For this level, the average score needed was at least 3.25 on all exams and 3 or higher on four or more of those exams.

A total of 28 students earned AP Scholar recognition, receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams, including current seniors Zachary Acocella, Michael Borelli, Lindsay Carpluk, Ryan

Hazell, Elizabeth Loizides, Kyle Lopez, Michael Marques, Jillian Mooney, Meghan Mueller, Simone Nasroodin, Evan Oldshein, Carolyn Sidoti and Christopher Sumano, along with 15 graduates.

"It's quite an accomplishment to be recognized as an AP Scholar, and our district is very proud of these students' perseverance and dedication to academic excellence," said Superintendent of Schools Linda J. Rozzi.

#1

FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP IN 36 YEARS

The boys cross-country team won the league championship for the first time since 1978, capping off an undefeated 6-0 season. The 29-30 League IV victory on Oct. 14 came against Huntington High School.



CULINARY AND HOSPITALITY ACADEMY *Gets Cookin'*



The high school's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Career Academy debuted this school year as the newest of the school's four academies, enrolling a dozen juniors and seniors, including students from the Cleary School for the Deaf.

Students are taught the entire career field in an integrated manner. On the culinary side, enrolled students learn about culinary preparation, food sanitation and food signage while



working in a special kitchen housed in the administration building. On the hospitality end, courses cover economics, hotel management, party planning, catering and food safety.

East Islip's Career Academy program is one of very few that have been given CTE approval by the state's education department. The Board of Regents recently approved the career and technical pathway, allowing students to master technical skills, use work-based learning, and take a rigorous CTE exam to help fulfill graduation requirements.

Internships with Academy sponsor

North Shore-LIJ, as well as local hotels, catering halls and food businesses, will ensure valuable networking for the Academy graduates.

The choice for the fourth Academy reflects Long Island's changing employment trends. "We discussed what career fields are in demand, and hospitality and tourism are the next areas that are exploding," said Career Academy Director Israel Malinowitzer.



PARENT PORTAL GRADEBOOK LAUNCHES

For several years, the district has used Infinite Campus, a student information system, to record student attendance, assessment results, schedules and other information. The system also includes a feature that now allows parents, guardians and students to access and keep track of classroom grades throughout each quarter. This particular new Gradebook feature has been enabled for grades 6 through 12, and will go live on Monday, Nov. 17, the beginning of the second marking period.

Last spring, a committee composed of parents, central office personnel, directors, principals and teacher representatives met to research the implications of providing parent and student access to the Gradebook, and determined that many nearby towns utilizing the same system have already opened this "portal" to families.

"Perhaps the greatest advantage to opening up the Gradebook is that it can encourage dialogue between parents and their preteens and teenagers," said Superintendent Linda J. Rozzi. "Enabling

students and parents to track student academic progress can help them to collaborate with teachers to catch and target areas in need of improvement, and we hope that improved access to earned grades will serve to motivate and empower students."

Parents and guardians should keep several important points in mind when addressing student grade information. Firstly, initial contact with teachers to discuss questions or concerns should always come from the student, promoting both independence and self-advocacy. Secondly, parents should be aware that teachers have professional flexibility in assigning, grading and posting grades. Based upon the complexity of assignments by the teacher, the posting of grades may vary. Teachers provide class grading policies to the students at the beginning of the school year as well as to parents at annual Meet the Teacher nights. Parents should also note that the Gradebook reflects a snapshot in time and that averages may fluctuate

throughout the marking period.

Since the Gradebook provides a real-time, "rolling" progress report for parents and students at any time during a marking period, midterm (five-week) paper progress reports at the secondary school level become obsolete. However, the district will continue to send out phone and email reminders to parents and guardians alerting them when it is the middle of the quarter and suggesting that they log into the Gradebook and check their child's progress. If they have not done so regularly throughout the marking period, report card distribution will remain the same, as parents will continue to see report cards on the portal at the conclusion of each quarter.

"We ask parents for continued cooperation and patience as we roll out this new feature," added Rozzi. "We look forward to enhancing school-to-home communication with this tool and hope that it will serve to stimulate both conversations at home and achievement in school."

UPCOMING *Events*

Nov. 13

Board of Education Business Meeting

Nov. 16

EIABC Redmen 5K Run/Walk

Nov. 20

Board of Education Workshop Meeting

Nov. 24-25

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Dec. 2

RCK Winter Concert

Dec. 3

JFK Winter Concert

Dec. 4

EJ Autism Black Tie Hoodie Fundraiser

Dec. 5

Evening with Santa at HS

Dec. 9-10

MS Winter Concerts

Dec. 11

Board of Education Business Meeting

Dec. 15-16

HS Winter Concerts

Dec. 17

HS Fall Sports Awards

Jan. TBA

2nd Annual Community Advocacy Breakfast

New Technology *Initiatives*

According to Richard Zwyczewicz, the district's executive director for student achievement and instructional technology, work has commenced to advance the district's top current technological priority – providing an equitable distribution of technology services throughout all of the district's school buildings.

To that end, infrastructure work is moving forward to make each building Wi-Fi ready and to ensure that the number of computers in each school is appropriate for that building's population size. We have already increased overall Internet speed (from 20MB to 100MB), replaced switches and desktop computers, and installed a new Brocade network, iPrism Web filter, firewall and storage area network. Recent installations include computer projectors at the high school and additional wireless access points at the middle school.

Calling All Distinguished *Alumni!*

The district is working to re-establish East Islip's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame to honor outstanding graduates. Recognition will be based on post-high school achievements, including professional excellence, as well as service to the community and school district.

An Awards and Recognition Committee is being formed to establish criteria, solicit nominations, select recipients and help district leaders plan the return of an annual awards ceremony for spring 2015.

Community residents interested in sharing their time and talents in helping lead this new district initiative should contact the superintendent's secretary, Joanne Mann, at jmann@eischools.org or 631-224-2010.

Join Your Community School Organizations!

The district encourages membership in local school community and parent-teacher organizations, which include the East Islip Athletic Booster Club, eiMAPS, SEPTO, the high school PTSA, and the PTAs for the middle school and Connetquot, JFK, RCK and Timber Point elementary schools. New 2014-2015 membership forms for each of the parent-teacher organizations can be found on the school pages of the district website. Explore the site's Community Links section for more information on the EIABC and eiMAPS.