

SUMMER 2011



The Beacon of Hope

EAST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

John J. Finello Announced as Interim Superintendent

The East Islip Board of Education has unanimously voted to approve a contract with John J. Finello to serve as the district's Interim Superintendent for the 2011-12 school year.



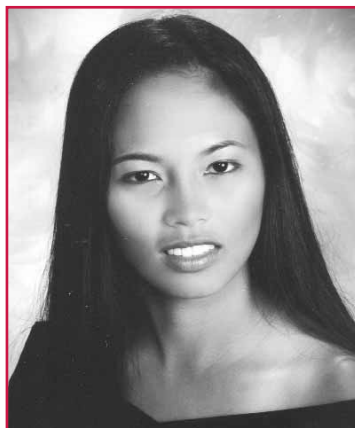
Mr. Finello earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from St. John's University, a Master of Arts in education from Adelphi University, and a Professional Diploma in educational administration at Long Island University – C.W. Post. Following his college graduation, he joined the faculty at Huntington Elementary School in the district he had graduated from just four years prior. In 2001, he was named Superintendent of the Huntington School District, a post that he held for ten years. He retired from Huntington on June 30 of this year.

"We are fortunate to have such an established and influential leader joining our community as Interim Superintendent," East Islip Board of Education Vice President Ken Cronin said of the announcement. "His experienced, steady leadership will be relied upon as we continue an intensive search for a new Superintendent of Schools."

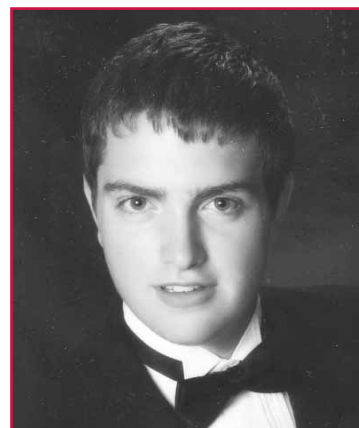
During his tenure with the Huntington School District, Mr. Finello was responsible for the development and implementation of a variety of curricular changes and innovations aimed at strengthening and enhancing instruction and learning in all academic areas. In addition, Mr. Finello initiated long-term budget priorities and planning and actively pursued available financial grants.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve the East Islip school community and look forward to working with parents, students, staff and community members," said Mr. Finello.

In addition to his role as Superintendent, Mr. Finello serves as an adjunct professor in Stony Brook University's School of Professional Development, teaching courses in educational leadership for the next generation of school administrators. Mr. Finello is also an active member of local, state and national superintendent associations, and has served on the executive board of Section XI of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. He has received many accolades for his dedication to students over the years, including the Spirit Award, presented by the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education, for his nearly four decades of service to the Huntington community.



VALEDICTORIAN
VIRGINIA DANTIS



SALUTATORIAN
EVAN KAPLAN



AT THE TOP of Their Class

East Islip High School's Class of 2011 is proud to announce this year's valedictorian, Virginia Dantis and salutatorian, Evan Kaplan. With weighted averages of more than 125, they have both exhibited true character and academic excellence.

Virginia Dantis has been an active member of the East Islip High School community. In addition to being a member of the National Honor Society and president of the Math Honor Society, she was a member of the math team, STARS (Students Together Achieving Responsibility & Success) and the Girls Leaders Club. Virginia was also the treasurer of both the Interact Club and the Foreign Language Honor Society, and was secretary of the Humanities Honor Society. In addition to her academic and extracurricular activities, she has participated on both the Varsity Field Hockey and Varsity Basketball teams. Virginia plans to attend Wesleyan University, where she intends to major in molecular biology and biochemistry.

During his time at the High School, Evan Kaplan has served as treasurer of the National Honor Society, secretary of the Math Team, and secretary of the Science Honor Society. In addition to being an integral member of the Tri-M, Jazz and Wind ensembles, Evan has played on the school's Varsity Tennis team. He is planning a career in neuroscience and will be attending Duke University in the fall.

Congratulations to Virginia and Evan.

2 Board of Education Message

Glenn Reed, President



The Next Chapter

Another school year has drawn to a close – the journey that started for the Class of 2011 in the '90s can now be referred to as a “mission accomplished.” The

late nights of homework and studying, practices, recitals and concerts, assemblies, etc...they are now all part of the East Islip memories that our students, and we as parents, will take with us.

So on everyone goes; graduation is not the ending, but rather that point in time to pause (for at least a day or two!) and reflect on not only how much has been accomplished, but also how much is awaiting these fine young men and women as they continue their journey to the future, be it in college, employment or service

in our military!

As parents and neighbors, we too move forward to the next chapter of our lives. Whether it's about “one less” child in the school district, or the last one finishing up, our lives will adjust.

Over the summer the school district will similarly “adjust” to changes – most significantly and happily, we welcome our new superintendent, Mr. Jay Finello, to the district and wish him well as he joins us in July and prepares for the upcoming year. Other staff members throughout the district are being interviewed and hired to fill spots left by retiring teachers as well as to meet the ongoing needs and requirements of the district.

Similarly the buildings will receive annual “tune-ups and maintenance,” in particular to

accommodate our new kindergarteners and preschoolers at each of our four elementary schools this fall; Mr. Tartaglia and the Grounds and Maintenance staff have begun to ready the buildings for our newest students!

Enjoy the summer and the chance to refresh and recreate yourselves. The 2011/12 school year is just around the corner and we'll begin the “next chapter” for another group of students, looking to build on our successes and further improve our East Islip. Rest assured that your School Board is keenly aware that the upcoming year is an important and challenging one, and that we will work diligently to provide the best programs and services we can. We have much to be proud of, but still much to accomplish!

Have a great summer, and feel free to reach out to me or the Board if you have any questions or suggestions. Most importantly – Get Involved!!

Superintendent's Message

John J. Finello



It is a pleasure that I write to you as your superintendent of schools for the 2011/12 school year. I am honored to have been selected by the members of the Board of Education; and it has been wonderful to

receive such a warm welcome by the East Islip community.

Although it is summer vacation for our students, the district's administrative team has been working hard to establish the foundation for what we believe will be an outstanding school year. All of us are confident that students on every grade level will receive an education second to none. With the closing of the Early Childhood Center, we are in the process of relocating teachers and support staff to their new homes. Our elementary buildings are preparing for the preschool and

kindergarten students. We wish to welcome our parents and their children to a new and exciting experience.

The East Islip School District is known across Long Island for its exceptional academic and co-curricular programs. Be assured that when classes resume in September, students will be offered a comprehensive education, complete with the courses, teachers, materials and facilities they need to attain success.

Please take a moment to become familiar with the information contained in this Beacon of Hope newsletter. In a separate mailing you will receive a district calendar with a schedule of school events and pertinent school and district information. We invite you to visit our schools often and come and watch our students soar. Hundreds of free events will be open to the public this year. From athletic games, school plays, concerts and

recitals to academic fairs and intellectual competitions, we are confident you will be as impressed with East Islip's students as we are.

In these challenging economic times, New York school districts are being asked to stretch their resources further, effectively doing more with less. Here in East Islip, all of us are committed to tight fiscal management and economizing wherever possible. We pledge to be good financial stewards as we pursue excellence in every facet of our operations.

East Islip is a wonderful community. By working together, we will continue to offer our young people an exceptional educational experience that meets the needs of each individual. Should you ever have any questions about our public schools, please feel free to call any of our buildings or district offices. We are here to serve you.

Best wishes to all for a rewarding, successful and enjoyable year!

Asst. Superintendent's Message

Alise Becker-Santa (Instruction)



I hope you are enjoying a healthy and fulfilling summer. With students returning to school on September 6th, and September 11th just a few days after the opening of school, our district's 9/11

Commemoration Committee met to discuss a district-wide plan to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of this unspeakable tragedy that has affected history. The committee, comprised of administrators, teachers, librarians, parents and community members, met on Thursday, June 16th to brainstorm ideas for this commemorative event which would be appropriate for each grade level.

Since September 11th falls on a Sunday this year, we are planning to have our district-wide activities on Thursday, September 8th and have selected Friday, September 9th as a rain date in the case of

inclement weather. In addition to a moment of silence held in each building, the following is a brief description of the events and activities each school is planning for its students.

At the East Islip High School and East Islip Middle School, outdoor ceremonies are being planned which will include color guard presentations and speeches from community members who were involved in the 9/11 rescue efforts. In addition, the High School is planning to create a time capsule, with an event to take place in the courtyard, and the social studies teachers will be discussing the historical significance of 9/11. At the Middle School, a large flag will be created in the courtyard, and each student will have the opportunity to decorate a portion of the flag with a patriotic message. A memorial walk of the courtyard is being planned during extended lunch hours. Students will also view a short video about our nation's heroes, and the events

that led to the commemoration of this day.

The elementary schools are planning a flag ceremony, along with patriotic songs to be sung by all students. Students will be asked to wear red, white and blue to school as they learn about the events of 9/11 in their classrooms using developmentally appropriate materials. In addition, Connetquot Elementary School is planning to dramatize a special story, appropriate for grades one and two. Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School is also planning a patriotic art project that will display handprints of students for all to see. Other plans are still being developed.

The tragedy of September 11, 2001 occurred when many of our students were either quite young or not yet born. You may wish to discuss the tragedy of 9/11 at home with your children prior to these events.

I would like to thank all who assisted in planning and coordinating these tributes. You are wished a safe and enjoyable summer. I look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.



At the meeting Pat and Nancy are pictured presenting the check to past-president of the Board, Ken Cronin.

FTK Foundation Donates \$50k

At the May 17 Board of Education meeting in East Islip, the For the Kids (FTK) Foundation's past-president Pat Diesu and current president Nancy Goldfader presented the Board of Education with a check for \$50,000. The donation is slated to be used for technology at each of the district's schools, with \$10,000 for use within the music department. This money was raised throughout the year at FTK events such as the Carnival, Golf Outing and Gala.



(L-R) Principals Lisa Belz, Danielle Naccarato and Aileen O'Rourke support the FTK.

FORE the KIDS



FTK President Nancy Goldfader and Board trustee Kim G. Phillips celebrate the annual event.

With a new June date, the East Islip For The Kids (FTK) Foundation recently held its 12th annual Golf Outing to raise funds in support of academic, cultural, and recreational programs for East Islip School District students. This year, FTK named Dwayne Diesu as the "Fore the Kids" Golf Outing honoree for his generosity in working behind the scenes, offering guidance on organizational changes, and giving advice on financial decisions.

"Dwayne has dedicated many years to the FTK," said President Nancy Goldfader on the honoree. "His personal commitment to FTK has allowed us to reach our goals. His generosity goes above and beyond anyone's expectations." Although Mr. Diesu has never held a position on the FTK Board, his dedication has never wavered. He volunteers at all of the fundraisers and helps recruit golfers for the

annual outing. He has been married to FTK past-president Pat Diesu for 27 years and their four children have all attended the East Islip School District, with the last one set to graduate in June of 2014.

On a perfect last day of spring, more than 120 participants teed off at Island Hills Golf Club to raise money for FTK's efforts. Several East Islip school officials, administrators and Board members contributed to the cause. Thanks to the generosity of numerous local businesses and sponsors, the FTK had many great prizes to raffle off for guests at the outing's after party, which also featured dining and dancing.

The FTK would like to thank all those who have contributed to its success over the years. Please reserve the date of June 21, 2012 for next year's Golf Outing.

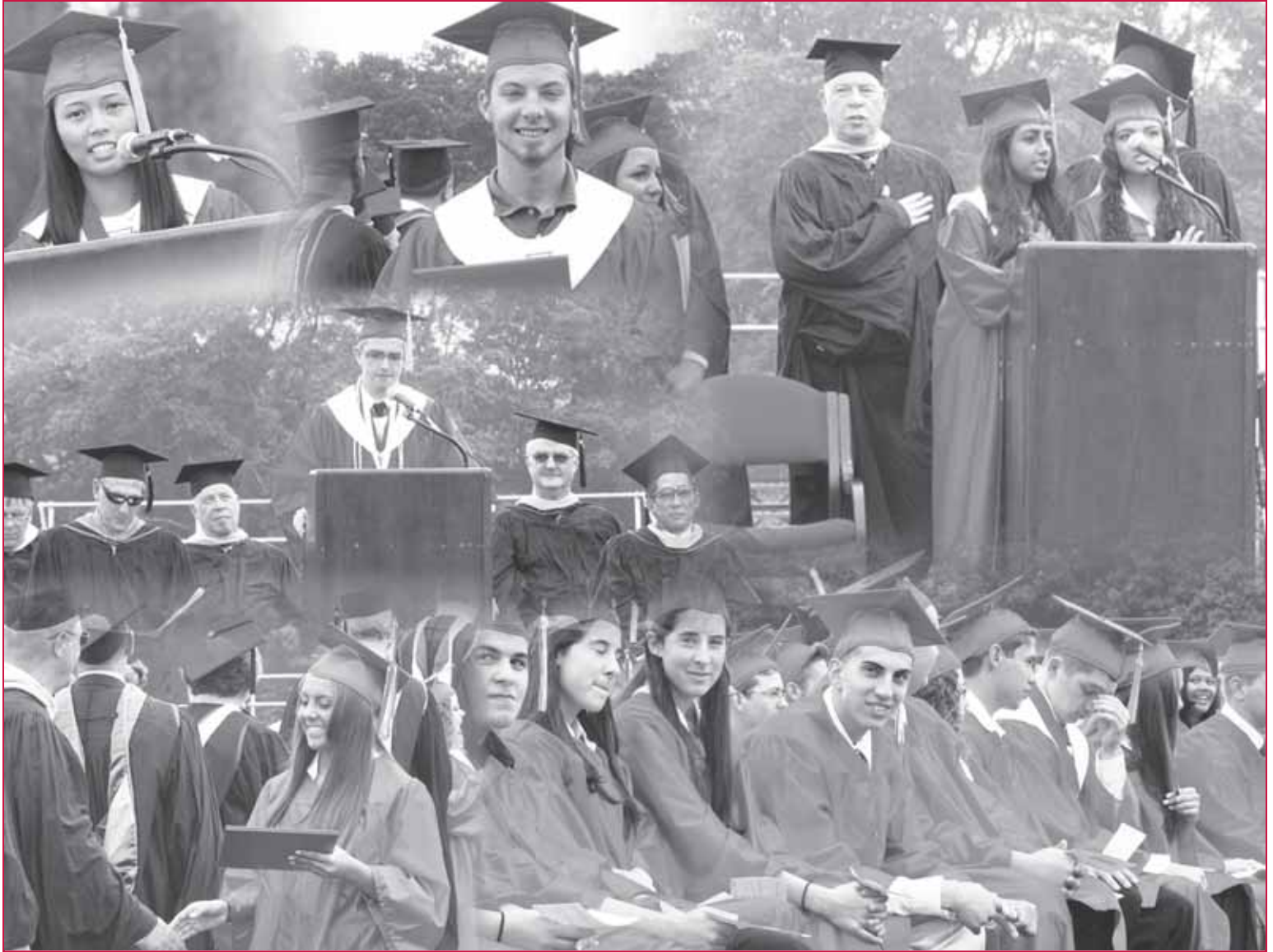


The Diesu family (with eldest son absent from photo) supports father, Dwayne, who is the evening's honoree.



Members of the FTK Board together with event volunteers.

Oh, the Places They Will Go: *Class of 2011 Takes the Next Step*



After the threat of rain postponed the graduation from its usual Friday evening time slot, the graduates awoke to a sunny morning for their participation in the 84th Commencement Exercises of the East Islip High School on June 25. Following the processional, Principal Bill Brennen addressed the graduates by reading excerpts from the popular childrens book “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” by Dr. Seuss. Mr. Brennen summed up this fitting and popular tribute to graduates with, “Live life without limitations;....Don’t be afraid of bumps in the road; face them with confidence and determination.”

Despite their nerves of speaking in front of crowds, Valedictorian Virginia Dantis and Salutatorian Evan Kaplan gave excellent addresses to their peers. Evan urged, “We are all unique...become who you want to be.” Virginia gave advice that included, “Thank everyone who helped you get here today...don’t be afraid to try new things...and always remember the times we spent together.”

Board President Ken Cronin distributed diplomas to each of the graduates. After the move of the tassels from left to right and the celebratory cap toss, the class left the field with many places to go.



Congratulations Graduates

Jamielyn Abad	Tamoor Chaudry	Ralph Gallo	Michelle Leonardo	Michael O' Toole	Iram Shafiq
Michael Agosti	Cristin Ciaravino	Eric Gangi	Michael Lettenberger	Nikolette Odierno	Laura Sherman
Kevin Ahearn	Alisa Cipolla	Shawn Gao	Dylan Levesque	Lidia Orellana	Taylor Scinski
Laila Ahmad	Nicole Clarke	Jamie Garcia	Jillian Liebergall	Elyse Orski	Kaitlyn Siems
Kevin Alfieri	Samantha Clyne	Kathryn Garcia	Elizabeth Linz	Jonathan Otten	Stephen Simonetti
Brian Allmendinger	Leanza-Marie Cocco	Kailynn Gehringer	Amanda Little	Justin Ovalle	Ethan Smith
Michelle Alvarez	Maria Guadalupe Conde	Thomas Gianni	Amber Livoti	Lauren Padula	Trevor Smith
Victoria Amato	Nicholas Converso	Thomas Gisonna	Monica Lobo	Dina Palazzolo	Samantha Snyder
Nicolas Ancona	Tyler Conway	Erin Glynn	Anthony Lockwood	Adam Palumbo	Joseph Sousa
Briana Anderson	James Cook	Joseph Griffin	Lindsay Long	Andrew Pardo	Jake Spratley
Leah Arden	Jonathan Cooke	Jannine Guardiola	Samantha Lowe	Vincent Parisi	Stephen Stauffer
Frank Artura	Janelle Cooley	Matthew Guida	Alexia Lukken	Veronica Pasha	Nicholas Stiles
Gianna Artusa	Nicole Corriveau	Lynn Gustie	Mary Lycke	Victoria Pastrana	Michael Stitt
Nicole Aygar	Jack Coughlan	Christopher Guzzetta	Bryan Maddock	Rocco Pelosi	Edward Stock
Brett Baehr	Daniel Crochiere	Cathryn Haggerty-	Keith Madocks	Anthony Perry	Michael Strassburger
Alex Baier	Christian Cruz	Chessman	Leah Maguffin	Shannon Philbin	Nicole Stringer
Victoria Baio	Virginia Dantis	Elizabeth Hand	Kristina Maio	Caroline Phillips	Catherine Swezey
Joseph Barbato	Amanda DaSilva	Valerie Hardoon	Bryan Mangam	Dylan Polis	Matthew Taft
Brian Barclay	George Daskalothanassis	Ryan Harmer	Frank Mantell	Dominick Porcella	Annette Tekverk
Gregory Barnes-Acerra	David DellaVecchia	Ashley Helm	Christopher Marchese	Alex Portera	Ella Terry
Daniel Baroncelli	Danielle DeMario	Michael Higgins	Colin Maretsky	Philip Postiglione	Edward Terwilliger
Nicole Basile	Jennifer Derry	Brandon Hightower	Kristina Marinaro	Paige Pozzuto	Eric Thomesen
Nadine Beck	Raymond DeVecchis	Laura Hill	Elizabeth Marku	Marlon Pun	Nicole Timoney
Kerri Becvar	Frank DeVeglio	Danielle Hillebrand	Paige Marrero	Tyler Quick	Sarah Torelli
Tyler Begley	Matthew DiGiacomo	Taylor Hole	Nicholas Martin	Bridget Quinn	Deanna Torino
Kevin Behan	James DiGiovanna	Michael Holley	Robert Martin	Adam Ramadan	Elaina Tornincaso
Giavana Benedetto	Teresa DiMaggio	Cassandra Holliday	Lauren Martinez	Omar Rana	Emily Torres
Garrett Bernichon	Jessica Donnelly	Anna Hovestadt	Nicholas Mast	John Raynor	Devin Tracy
Christina Bilello	Racheal Donnelly	Amanda Hovland	Kevin Mavrich	Krystal Regan	Sarah Tryon
Timothy Bishop	Travis Driever	Katherine Hromadka	Alexis Mazza	Darrin Reilly	Edward Tuskan
Danielle Bochicchio	Kyle Echevarria	Robert Husfeldt	Stephen McCarroll	Hunter Reyes	Katharine Umbdenstock
Charles Bollenbach	Alicia Elliott	Dylan Hutchinson	Kristen McDermott	Donald Rice	Victoria Uruburu
Carl Bono	Makenzie Emerson	Kevin Hutchinson	Jennifer McGarity	Stephen Rieger	Jahn Usmani
Amanda Borbee	Tara Ernst	Lori Ilardi	Melissa McGrath	Kenneth Risco	Katelyn Vaiana
Michele Borbee	Eric Fackelman	Edward Ippilito	Shannon McGuickian	Alyssa Rivera	Frank Valva
Jonathan Bouza	Joseph Falcone	Robert Ippilito	Patrick McGuinness	Joseph Rizzo	Steven Vargas
Kirsten Brady	Neal Falcone	Erin Jacobsen	Keith McKenna	Kamil Roszkowski	Thomas Vecerina
Sarah Brady	Anthony Fanni	Jillian Jacobsen	John McLean	Mathew Roth	Darwin Velasquez
Adam Brigandi	Gerard Faraone	Michael Janover	Eric McMahan	Emilio Rovalino	Kimberly Ventiere
Kelsey Brotzman	Anthony Farino	Christopher Joyce	Brian Meditz	Krista Ruisi	Tara Ventimiglia
Hayley Brown	Dean Fatsis	Timothy Kaczynski	Joseph Mee	Philip Ruisi	Laura Vetter
Shannon Brown	Connor Faughnan	Ryan Kane	Paige Meehan	Megan Saliu	Anthony Visconti
Gregory Bryant	Kristen Feeney	Evan Kaplan	Matthew Meier	Anthony Sallemi	Aubrey Vollmuth
Gabriela Buffolino	Brittany Ferrara	Edward Karika	Valeria Mendez	Maureen Sallie	Thomas Volpe
Alexander Buksa	Andrew Ferremi	Connor Kelly	Christina Menis	Karen Sanchez	Brendan Ward
Jesse Busch	Reilly Ferrin	William Kelsey	Brittany Middlemiss	Ryan Sanders	Brittany Ward
Curtis Businski	Joseph Fischer	Carolyn Kenney	Jose Morales	Emily Sandino	Andrew Waterbury
Tania Cabrera Salazar	Julie Fishman	Keith Kirschenheiter	Rosanna Moran	Jessica Sanfilippo	Kevin Wendel
Jessica Calamusso	Frances Flancbaum	Kyle Knoth	Sara Morici	Ryan Sanford	Diana Wieland
Cody Caligiuri	Alison Fleece	Amanda Komulainen	Kaitlin Morris	Chelsea Sapienza	Nicholas Wilkinson
Marisa Caliguri	Kyle Flynn	Alexandra Kopsky	James Motsiff	Michael Scarola	Christina Wilson
Taylor Cammeyer	Dean Franciotti	Katelyn Koslosky	Bridget Murphy	Tyler Schaper	Victoria Wisdom
Nicole Camp	Jason Francisco	Joseph Lafata	Chad Murray	Jennifer Scharfschwerdt	Jeffrey Wong
Daniel Capone	Joseph Fremgen	Gina LaGrassa	Kelly Murray	Conrad Scheiber	Ian Wright
Thomas Carew	Zachary French	William Langman	Katherine Naccarato	Alex Schilling	Audrey Zamichow
Ryan Casey	Christopher Frey	Christopher Lau	Christina Narkon	Carly Schnitzer	Andres Zapata
Dylan Castronova	Tara Friel	Charles Lehner	Cody Negrón	William Schrader	Ken Zhang
Ryan Cavanaugh	James Frost	Christopher Leis	Colin O' Connor	Meghan Schreyer	
Brendan Cefalu	Caitlyn Fusco	Brittany Lemon	Matthew O' Connor	Louis Seda	
Paul Cefalu	Nicole Gabriel	Gabrielle Lemon	Thomas O' Neill	Christopher Seitz	
Edin Charuk	Nicole Gallagher	Brendan Lemp	Katelyn O' Reilly	Meghan Selzer	

NEWS AROUND OUR

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Ending on a High Note

Kindergarten students at the Early Childhood Center celebrated the close of the school year and their final days at the school with a special concert. Family, friends and special guests were invited to hear the class sing a variety of songs, including "I Can't Spell Hippopotamus" and "This Land Is Our Land." Pictured are some of the students during their performance.



CONNETQUOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Celebrating Our Earth

In honor of Earth Day and April as poetry month, students and staff at Connetquot Elementary School celebrated with an ecology-themed poetry contest. Open to the entire school, students were encouraged to write poetry with an Earth Day theme that illustrated good mechanics and originality. During the last week of April, the winning students from each grade received the opportunity to share their poems with the entire school by reading them over the loudspeaker and hanging them in the school's main lobby. Pictured are the poetry contest

winner with judges Mrs. Alpert, Miss Corley, Mrs. deVries, Mrs. Solomon and Mrs. Wilk.



Poetry winners were: Amanda Curry (grade 1), Erin Kroupa (grade 1), Burcu Camlica (grade 2), Giovanna Perrone (grade 2), Kieran Tohill (grade 2), Dale Ahlers (grade 3), Ryan Bauer (grade 3), Gabby Freund (grade 3), Nicollette Motto (grade 4), Jessica Sindoni (grade 4), Tommy Ahlers (grade 4), Heather McNamara (grade 4), Michael Magro (grade 5), Robert Ladanza (grade 5) and the students of Miss White's class.

JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rohan Murphy Inspires Elementary Students

East Islip 2001 graduate, champion wrestler, motivational speaker and double-leg amputee Rohan Murphy recently spoke with students at JFK Elementary School. Students in first through fifth grade were inspired by Rohan's athleticism and positive attitude, despite the fact that he had both legs amputated at the age of four. "No one ever made fun of me or bullied me when I was in school," Rohan said. "But I wanted to overcome my disability and be something great." He explained how a middle school gym teacher helped to change his life forever by introducing him to the sport of wrestling. "I never quit and I was always willing to work harder than anyone else and take on a challenge."



He explained to students how he worked hard to perfect his wrestling skills and eventually went on to play for Penn State. Rohan demonstrated some of his moves for students and illustrated how despite his lack of legs, he could run laps and stay in shape with his teammates. He left students with his motto, "No excuses...anything is possible."

Navy Captain Visit

Mrs. Haller's fifth-grade class at JFK was visited by Captain John Yancigay of the United States Navy recently. Captain Yancigay was home for a short leave and is currently stationed in Baghdad, Iraq.

Mrs. Haller's class wrote letters throughout the school year to the Captain's Troop (Troop 2034). As a symbol of appreciation, Captain Yancigay presented Mrs. Haller's class with an American flag that had flown over the United States Embassy in Baghdad. According to Captain Yancigay, this flag represents "the

"sustained sacrifices of the American soldier and the willingness and depth of the values of honor, duty and selfless sacrifice." Mrs. Haller's class wishes these and all soldiers a safe return from Iraq.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

RUTH C. KINNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Pictured are students from Mrs. Nolan's fifth-grade class at Ruth C. Kinney with their completed cranes.

Cranes for A Cause

After studying the culture of Japan and the tragic events that happened there recently, students at RCK wanted to help. Librarian Melanie Ash did some research and came across an organization, Students Rebuild, which was hosting a worldwide fundraiser for Japan through the production of origami cranes. Familiar with origami, Mrs. Ash used her library time with students to teach them the craft and the significance of the crane in Japanese culture. For each origami crane that students created, a \$2 donation was made to the Architecture for Humanity's reconstruction efforts in Japan.

The organization anticipated the receipt of more than 100,000 submissions from around the globe. Ruth C. Kinney, in conjunction with Connetquot Elementary School, created more than 1,000 cranes to put towards the efforts. "The kids were really interested in it," Mrs. Ash said of the unique fundraiser. In Japanese culture, one crane gives good luck for a year, but 1,000 cranes will make your wish come true. Students Rebuild plans to create an art installation with all of the cranes they received.

The Colonial Period

Fourth-grade students at RCK went back in time to the colonial period of 1565.



Students donned typical colonial wear and established a mock village for their parents and peers to travel through and experience life from that time. All fourth graders took on a task from categories such as foods, household chores, toys/games, jobs and school to illustrate the reality of the time. For example, students created games that were played during the era from actual materials that would have been used. They then allowed fellow students touring the "village" to try their skills at the games.

To prepare for the event, students studied the colonial period in class and visited the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. "It brought history to life for them," said fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Nancy Kane. "It deepened their understanding of the time."

TIMBER POINT ELEMENTARY

Once Upon a Lily Pad



First-grade students at Timber Point Elementary School recently performed a short play for members of their family. "Once Upon a Lily Pad" was about a frog who searches for the meaning of life and friendship inside of a pond. The play included musical numbers that featured such life lessons as "listen to your parents...they have good advice."

Staff Honored Like Hollywood Stars

Timber Point Elementary School honored its teachers for all of their hard work and dedication to students throughout the year. Hosted by the school's PTA, the luncheon featured a Hollywood theme, complete with a red carpet and stars bearing the honorees' names on the "Walk of Fame." The lunch featured food donated by local businesses and cooked by community residents as a thank you to the teachers and staff who work with our children. In total, 60 staff members at Timber Point were honored.

Pictured is the first group of Walk of Famers, which included teacher aides and foster grandparents who volunteer their time in classrooms.



Fleet Week Lands

In honor of Fleet Week and the Memorial Day holiday, members of the U.S. Marine Corp. landed three helicopters at the East Islip Middle School field. The Cobra and new Osprey helicopters touched down and offered students a unique opportunity to experience physics first-hand. Students were able to tour each of the helicopters and hear from Marines on the use and involvement of helicopters in history and special operations. This was the

first time the Osprey

helicopter had landed on Long Island.

“It gives students a break from the normal routine and lets them take advantage of a great opportunity to learn about our equipment and history first-hand,” Major Alexander Gilbert said of the event.

Director of Guidance Israel Malinowitzer has been trying to coordinate this for the past few years. “We are honored to have the Marines here today,” he said of the experience.



A Healthy Garden

Students in the Family Consumer Science Club at East Islip Middle School planted a garden to grow all of their cooking herbs from. The club raised funds for the garden through its annual dinner fundraiser, as well as through donations, including lettuce donated by Poppa's Farm. The garden includes dill, basil, sage, bok choy, cilantro, lettuce, and garlic, all of which the club members plan to utilize in their cooking.

Student volunteers from the club come into school a few minutes early or during their lunch period to water the plants and monitor their growth. “This really teaches students about the direct connection with food from the soil to their table,” said club advisor Mrs. Patricia Fritz. “Many students don't realize these items are not just from the grocery store, but the ground.”

The Family Consumer Science Club meets weekly to teach students the art of cooking. This year, the club has made baked ziti, chicken francaise, pasta primavera, hummus and assorted appetizers. The club is open to students in grades six through eight and had 45 members. It has been a club at the Middle School for the past ten years.



Save the Date

EAST ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1981 30th Reunion
September 17, 2011

For more information and to RSVP, please go to our website www.eastislipsreunion1981.com

• **BOARD OF EDUCATION** •

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John J. Finello, Interim Superintendent of Schools

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 224-2000 or fax 581-1617. Visit our website at www.eischools.org