

The Beacon of Hope

EAST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT





Leading the Way

East Islip High School's Class of 2010 was led this year by Valedictorian Nela Tatur (above, left) and Salutatorian Deanna Pandolfo (above, right). Throughout their high school education, Nela and Deanna strove for success in everything that they did. It is with great pride that they serve as role models for all future classes.

Valedictorian Nela Tatur is a member of the Math Honor Society, National Honor Society, Science Honor Society and Language Honor Society. Beyond academics, Nela is also a member of the math team, literary magazine, gay-straight alliance and the drama club. As a well-rounded individual and in anticipation of her major, Nela volunteers at Stony Brook Hospital. She plans to major in Biology (premed) at Boston University in the fall.

Also impressive, Deanna Pandolfo is this year's Salutatorian. Planning to attend the University of Pennsylvania to major in Chemistry, she is a member of the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Science Honor Society and Humanities Honor Society. Deanna is also a member of the math team and STARS, and participates on the school's swimming, kickline and tennis teams. In her spare time, Deanna coaches swimming for the Special Olympics and is employed as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

Congratulations to both young women on these accomplishments, and best of luck in college.

Moving On Up!

Each elementary school throughout the district held a special Moving-Up Ceremony for their students who will be moving on to the next phase of their educational careers. Proud parents and family members filled the auditoriums and wished all of the students the best of luck. Each principal's speech to their class included remarks on the children's improvement, leadership and willingness to learn.

Congratulations to all students on their moving up!

East Islip Students Embark on **Empire Tour of Europe**

Six chorus students from East Islip High School were selected to perform in the American Music Abroad's Empire Tour of Europe this summer. The Empire Tour was created in 2000 to give



high-end performing high school and college students an opportunity to take part in various concert venues around the world. Students are recommended for participation based upon their All-State or All-County scores, as well as vocal technique, classroom behavior, and having a superior work ethic. In celebration, students were visited by Mr. Ronald Sutherland, who guest-conducted the NYSCAME All-County Band and helped coordinate East Islip students' participation in the program.

Selected students will be rehearsing at East Stroudsburg University in the Poconos (PA) in July and will be leaving for Europe, Italy, Australia, Germany and France during July and August. Congratulations to the following students for their selection to participate: Kerri Becvar (11th grade), Caitlin Condon (12th), Nicholas Converso (11th), Bobby Holliday (12th), Michael Janover (11th), and Monica Lobo (11th).

..... Ken Cronin, President



"You say goodbye, and I say hello..." (Paul McCartney)

The end of the 2009-2010 school year brought us many goodbyes and some new hellos. We say

goodbye to our senior class, who graduated in June under a beautiful clear sky. The seniors will be embarking on the next phase of their lives. They have spent the last thirteen years, from kindergarten to 12th grade, learning academics and social skills that will help prepare them for

the rest of their lives. The base of the structure is there, now it is their turn to put the final touches on their own personalities and futures.

We say goodbye to some of our teachers, who were excessed due to budget cuts. We hope that times will get better, so they may return. In addition, Mike Saidens (Early Childhood Center) and Pete Bleiberg (Athletic Director) have moved on and will be giving their expertise to the Sachem School District. We wish them well, and thank them for their years of service to our children and community.

I would now like to say hello to our new Art and Music Director. He is a familiar face in the music department and is now its Director - Mr. Stephen Guarino. The music department had a terrific year and the students were honored with many awards.

Our new Athletic Director is Mr. Stephen Restivo. Steve knows that the athletic department is a big piece of E.I.'s history. He is looking forward to getting right to work, meeting the coaches and our athletes. His office is in the High School across from the guidance office. If you are in the High School, stop in and say hello.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish everyone a safe and healthy summer. We'll see you in September.

Superintendent's Message

It's hard to believe that I am now starting my third year as superintendent of East Islip Schools. During my first two years, I developed an understanding of the needs of our children and the East

Islip School District. Several changes have been made such as the start of two career academies, the addition of new computer labs, and having new people in place in a variety of different roles. As I move forward, I would like to share with you my outlook for the future.

All of our children will need a solid education to take their place in the adult world. A high school diploma is an important milestone in that process. Our goal should be for every child to graduate. We need robust coursework, curriculum, and programs to maintain student interest and prepare them for the future they want. This means offering

····· Wendell Chu _

rigorous courses including more college-level programs similar to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other accelerated options. Part of this plan includes examining the programs and areas that have been cut in the past and restoring programs to the extent possible. Our children will enter a technologically rich world and we must provide them with the abilities demanded by that world. Moving forward to make mobility, constant connectivity, and flexibility the cornerstones of our technology plan is essential. We will move towards a wireless campus and provide students with access to their work and the information they need to succeed all the time throughout our area. Staying connected and being able to publish, critique, and have a real audience for student work is another critical step in the learning process.

I am mindful of the need for fiscal

responsibility. We know that as Long Islanders, we all have heavy property tax loads to bear. The school district is the largest portion of this responsibility, so as a school leader, I endeavor to accomplish what needs to be done with the smallest fiscal impact. High-quality products and service for each dollar spent is always the goal. We have created financial plans that put the district in a strong position for the future. Information like the fixed asset inventory guide for the replacement of equipment provides a thoughtful and well-reasoned approach to the planning process. Long-range planning in areas such as energy efficiency are part of the ongoing discussion to hold or reduce costs. Routine examination of the physical plant and planned replacement of large capital items allow for fairly level budget increases.

It is my hope that the initial measures I have taken and the plans that we have developed and begun to put into place will serve the district well, and give our community confidence in our schools and its leadership.

Asst. Superintendent's Message

...... Alise Becker-Santa (Instruction & Personnel).



Dear Parents and Community Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of some information that relates to the new school year ahead. A committee of

teachers and support personnel from across our district met this past school year to review how the anniversary of September 11, 2001 is addressed in each of our elementary schools.

As a result of several meetings, the committee established that each year this anniversary will be commemorated as "Patriot Day" in all of our elementary buildings. "Symbols of Citizenship", which are appropriate for each grade level, will be

integrated into the curriculum during the week of September 11th each year. A moment of silence will take place in each of our schools in memory of those who tragically lost their lives on that fateful day, when September 11th falls on a school day. When September 11th falls on a weekend, this day will be observed on the preceding Friday.

Each of our schools' libraries has developed a list of books appropriate for each grade level on a variety of related themes, in order to assist you. If you choose to discuss this event and its significance at home with your children, you can find a list of appropriate books on our website under the "Parent" section at www.eischools.org.

You may have already seen in the news that the N.Y.S. Education Department is in the process of revising the New York State grade 3-8 testing program and looking at cost-saving measures. As of this date, we have been advised of their decision to eliminate the N.Y.S. Social Studies Assessments for students in grades 5 and 8. I will continue to update our community with any other changes as we are informed of them.

During the summer months, teachers from across our district will be working on strengthening our English Language Arts Curriculum through curriculum writing for grades K-8. This is a culmination of the professional development our teachers have had in the area of balanced literacy over the years. This work will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the instruction that our students receive.

I look forward to working with our students, staff and all of you in the coming school year. Warmest wishes to all for a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Career Academy Explores the Florida Keys

Over the April break, East Islip High School's Career Academy had the unique opportunity of expanding their environmental learning with a visit to the Florida Keys. Twenty-one students in the program fundraised for the chance to embark on the four-day trip, during which students were expected to apply many of the skills they had learned in the classroom to the real-life settings of the Keys. The trip also provided the students with historical references for many important events.

On their arrival in the Keys, students toured the Everglades and learned about Indian huts and indigenous animals. Their second day was spent enhancing their marine life studies at the Discovery Center and receiving tours of the U.S.S. Mohawk, Fort Zachary Taylor, and the Hemingway House. Day three included kayaking to the mangroves, where they conducted a full environmental tour of the mangroves and sea life, as well as a nature walk and visit to a nautical museum. Prior to departing on the fourth day, students took a sailing tour of Miami Bay and had the opportunity to do some dolphin

watching.

"It brought us out of the classroom and exposed us to nature," senior Ryan Kelly said of his experience on the trip. Fellow senior Gabrielle Alper added,



"Seeing how much people care about the environment down there made me realize what we are trying to accomplish here {through the Career Academy}."

Career Academy students are pictured in Key West at the location marking "90 miles from Cuba." They are pictured with Career Academy advisor Israel Malinowitzer.

Settling the Score

Members of the East Islip Girls Varsity Bowling team recently held a friendly bowling match against WFAN radio personality Craig Carton. As a result of East Islip's much-deserved local press during the bowling season, Craig had made a series of goodnatured jokes on air about how he could "beat the girls in a game without any practice or effort."



The girls took him up on the challenge and held the deciding game at East Islip Lanes. In a head-to-head match, Craig took on high-scoring freshman Lena Sorrentino and won by 7 pins. However, Craig was allowed to play with bumpers, while Lena was not, and he also received a 100-pin handicap. "She was a really great sport," Craig said of Lena after the match. "She definitely would have beaten me if it weren't for bumpers, but she was very gracious in her defeat."

Craig's on-air partner is East Islip alumnus Boomer Esiason.

Teeny Award Winners in East Islip

Several East Islip High School students were honored by the Islip Arts Council for their participation in one of the school's musical or dramatic productions. The following students received Teeny Awards from the Council for 2010:

For the musical production of *Kiss Me Kate:*Larry Banks – Outstanding Male Performance in a Musical

Bobby Holliday – Set Design in a Musical Stage Crew – Excellence in Stage Crew

For the drama production of *All in the Timing:*Clayton Howe – Best Supporting Male in a
Comedy

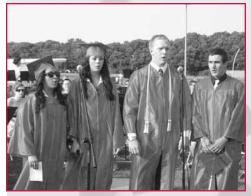
Nicole Fragala – Best Supporting Female in a Comedy

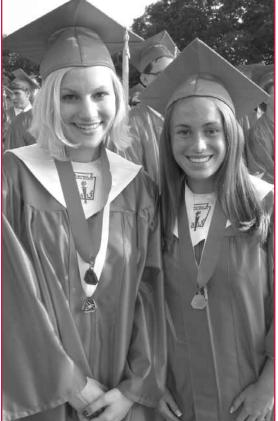
All Teeny Award recipients were honored with a redcarpet ceremony in May. Congratulations to all nominees and winners.

⁴83rd Commencement Brings Sunshine for Class of 2010









Much like the smiles on the graduates' faces, the sun was radiant on the 25th day of June, which marked the final chapter for the Class of 2010's education at East Islip High School. With mixed emotions of excitement and sadness, the graduates and their families gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion. "Our journey to this day has been an incredible experience... one we will never forget," summarized Salutatorian







Deanna Pandolfo on her time in the East Islip schools.

The ceremony, which included a special presentation of honorary diplomas to members of the Class of 1960, also featured musical performances from members of the senior class. With his son among the graduates, Board trustee Glenn Reed had the honor of addressing the crowd. He advised the class to always follow these five tips for life: look for someone to say thank you to, look for ways to volunteer, look for friendship, look for challenge, and always look for knowledge and never stop learning. Valedictorian Nela Tatur elaborated on this advice and urged her classmates, "As we all part ways, the most important thing is to not take life for granted. Enjoy life and love what you do." The ceremony concluded with the traditional tossing of the hats and a recessional march.

Congratulations Graduates

Lauren Accardi Ashlev Acocella Nicole Aguila Catherine Alfieri Gabrielle Alper Jory J. Alvarado Kyle Andersen Erin Anderson Jennifer Aponte Michael Apuzzo Anthony M. Argenti Nicholas Arma Colm Ashe Lauren Aulet Nicole Axelrad Larry B. Banks Joseph B. Barclay Eric Basso Daniel Bauer Madison Bayer Patrick Bedell Peter Belesis Brittany Bell Frank Benedetto **Christopher Benitez** Christopher Berdini Kyle Berry Alexandra Biondi Katherine Bishop Patrick Bishop Chelsi H. Biskup Sarah Bjorkgren Joseph Bogdanowich Nora Bolin Zachary Bonamassa Jamie Boroden Erik Braun Matthew Bregartner Rachel E. Brehm Alexander Brown Victor J. Bruno Thomas Bruzzo Kevin Bryant Rebecca Buckner Anthony J. Buffolino Matthew Bullis Victoria Burns Nicholas Byrnes Vincent Calautti Robert Campbell Michael A. Candela Diane Canzoneri Michael V. Carretto Nicole Carroll Beth Cash Erika P. Castillo Jonathan Catrona Vincent Cerniglia Vincent Chambers **Edmund Chwalisz** Jaclyn Cinquemani Matthew Cohen Chelsea Colagioia Stephen P. Cole Austin Collein Jake Connor Comiskey Corry Comstock Caitlin T. Condon

Marissa Confredo Brianne Connors Thomas Connors Michael Cowdell Cameron Cullen James Cummings Adam D. Amato Samantha Daley Scott Daley Daniel Damore Katie Danz Alyssa DeCarmine Lucas Deland Patrick Delaney Rachel Dell Orto Joseph John DeLuca Brooke R. Dennis Daniel DeSimone Declan G. DeVito Meghan Diggett Michael DiLiello Matthew Dobkowski Colleen Dooley Nicole Doyle Kane Samantha Drywa Khayri DuBarry John Duffy Kirstyn M. Dunn Christina L. Dussel Rebecca M. Echevarria Kavla Ehlich Ahmed E. Elshorebagy James D. Eldora Brian Engeldrum Cassandra Equale Juan C. Escobar Andrew Evseanko Sean M. Fagan Jacqueline Faggiani Danielle M. Falci Rhiannon Fanning Joseph Fazio Mateusz Ferenc Evan J. Ferrara Anna Finger Michael Fitzmaurice Marissa Fitzpatrick Caitlin Marie Flynn Lauren Fox Nicole Fragala Gregory Frampton Ashley Francisco Sarah Frank Lauren Frisina Brendon Fusco John S. Fuzia Maria C. Galarza Matthew Gallino Mackenzie Anne Gallo Sean Geddes Amy E. Gesslein Michael Giacomazza Anthony Giaquinto Anthony J. Gibson Breanna Gibson Matthew P. Gill Joseph Ging

Rebecca Giove

John Glock Jonathan Glueckert Taylor J. Gonzalez Kurt Grathwohl Kimberly Gratzer Stephen Graybosch Steven Graziano Richard Guadagno Philip Haines Alexander E. Hall Michael Halliday Meagan N. Hamanjian Edward J. Hamel John Harris Matthew Harris Samantha Harrison Lynda Hartley Daniel Healy Brett Heller Krysta Henneborn Ryan Henry Steven R. Herr Daniel Hickson Michael Hillenbrand Maxx Hoge Robert Holliday Gregory Hovestadt Clayton Howe Robert W. Hutchinson Stephanie Ilasi Gary Ippolito Scott Irace Derrick Jabs Michelle Lynn Jack Katie L. Jackson Vincent Jennosa Catherine Johnson Jennifer Jordan Christopher Joseph Kaczynski Dilpreet K. Kainth Katherine Karalis Nicole Kavanaugh Rvan J. Kellv Steven Kersting Anviksha Khajuria John S. Kidwell Nicole A. Kinkade Stephanie Marie Kissoon John Knieriemen Maybeth Koehler Kristen M. Komulainen Julia Koncelik Samantha Kovalevich Taylor Kowanetz Alexander Kramarcik Jonathan Krebs Valerie Kutzler Christopher John LaFata Amanda LaFemina Christina Lagudi Dane R. Lahrman Andrea B. Landaverde Michael Larkin Sara Laudani Andrew J. Lauro

Cory Lecce

Brittany Leisner

Megan Lemon Mark Leonard Jordan Levv Danielle Lieder Anthony Lojo Christopher M. Lynch Kaitlyn Lyons Robert Mackey Lauren Maddock Daniel Maffei Raisa Makarow Jessica Malloy Jason Maltman Michelle Mandile Matthew Marvanov Lauren Masiar Brittany A. Mastrangelo Robert Maxner Evan Mazza Katie McAuliffe Angela McBride Robert McConnell Connor McCue Stephen McGarity Alex McGovern Paul McHugh Tyler McHugh Connor McKelvey Michelle Marie McKinnon Kathryn McLasky Rebecca Meade Matthew Meagher Richard A. Meehan Brendan Meier Brittany Meloni Alison Menken Anthony Messino Keith A. Miller Laura A. Minniti Meaghan Minogue Michael Mojica Sean P. Moller James Montague Kaitlyn Montague Frederick Montalto Nicholas Montanino Samantha Mooney Jake Moran Brooke Morrell Joseph Moyles Christopher Murino Dylan Murino Nicholas Muroff Patrick Murphy Luke Najdek Matthew Nappi Nichol Emmanuel Navarro Jaclyn Newman Alexa Niciforo Kayla Nixdorf Jennifer Noller Samantha Norton Allison O'Brien Kassandra O'Brien Kristen O'Brien

Erin O'Halloran

Jacquelyn S. O'Hare Stephanie J. Ognibene Jessica Olivieri Nicole Olsen Kelly Omland Michael Orlando Emilio Ortiz Jordan C. Osburn Eric M Oswald Kathleen Oterson Amanda S. Ovalle Devin Ovalle Samantha Ozegovich Fallon Padro Anthony Pafundi Deanna Pandolfo Kaitlin Panzner Martin Paolino Steven J. Parker Michael Passalacqua Jennifer Paterno Jared Patterson Ariel C. Paz Kelsey Peacock Jenna Pearsall Nicolette Peluso Melody Jane Penny Michael P. Phillips Nicholas Pizzuto Amanda P. Pomerantz Kerri Potter Thomas Pozzuto Courtney Quinn Kellen Quinn Anthony J. Raccomandato Rebecca Michele Rainis Andrew Raitz Christian Reed Samantha C. Regan Oscar V. Reyes John Rice Brian Richards Rvan T. Rilev Gilberto Rivera Yahlena Roberts Michael Robinson Kristvn Roccaro Jacqueline Rocco Michael Rooney Stephanie Rosand Matthew Rossi Alfred James Sammartino Danielle Sannito Anthony Santaniello Tyler Sawyer Alexandria M. Schimmel Eric Schmidt Kyle Schnitzer Kathryn Schwedes Kimberly Sciacca Adam Scrio Krysta Sendel Kevin L. Serina Danielle Sheridan Christine Sidoti

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NEWS AROUND OUR

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

A Musical Ending



Kindergarten students at the Early Childhood Center celebrated the close of the school year and their final days at the school with a special End-of-the-Year Concert. Family, friends and special guests were invited to hear the class sing a variety of songs, including patriotic numbers in honor of Flag Day. The concert also serves to commemorate the kindergarten class moving up to the elementary school buildings.



CONNETQUOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Town of Islip Achievement Award Winners

Heidi Keil and Jackie Ginty, fifth-grade students at Connetquot Elementary School, have been selected for 2010

Achievement Awards from the Town of Islip. Nominated by their music teachers, Heidi and Jackie were chosen based upon their excellence in the performing arts. They were honored with the Achievement Award for the Performing Arts at a special ceremony held by

the Town in May.



Congratulating Heidi and Jackie are (L-R) music teachers Jaime DeMaria and Eileen Egbert, Connetquot Principal Dr. Lisa Belz, and District Director for Music and Fine Arts John Spiezio III.

JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Green Art

Throughout the school year, Mrs. Bernard's art students at John F. Kennedy Elementary School have been recycling various items for use in their art projects. Supporting the "Green Art" theme of this year's art



show, children created egg carton school buses, cereal box collages, trash bag wreaths and water bottle butterflies, among other projects. The students researched each item used for their projects. They discovered how many years they were saving that item from rotting in a landfill. For example, instead of throwing out plastic bags, students created holiday wreaths to decorate their homes; those same bags, which would have been thrown out, take 10-20 years to completely decompose. Green artwork was displayed in the main lobby at JFK School.

Select fourth and fifth-grade students are pictured below with their green art projects: (L-R) Molly O'Neill, Kent Hlavac, John Camlet, Adam Blibaum and Joey Corrao.



Money Doesn't Grow On Trees

It's never too early to learn to save! Second-grade students in Ms. Marshall's class at John F. Kennedy Elementary School received a lesson in spending and saving money from representatives of Astoria Federal Savings Bank. During the workshop, students created a money tree and put leaves of

money on the tree as a symbol of the amount of money they can save. Students then went through items they typically purchase and realized how quickly their tree had shed all of its leaves. Bank representatives stressed the importance of saving money and spending wisely.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

RUTH C. KINNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Light's On for Safety

For the fourth consecutive year, Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School had students chosen as winners in the Long Island Power Authority's (LIPA) annual Safety Poster Contest. With entries from across the Island, LIPA picked four winners from each grade level from 3-5. This year, Ruth C. Kinney had two winners in the competition: fourth-grade student Kira Westgate-Addessi and fifth-grade student



Weston Osburn.
Kira and Weston
each developed a
slogan regarding
electric safety and
then created their
poster around the
theme. They are
congratulated here
by their art teacher
Ms. Weller, and
District Director of
Music and Fine
Arts John Spiezio
III.

Crossing the Finish Line

Anthony Palma, a fourth-grade student at Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School, has been selected for a 2010 Achievement Award from the Town of Islip. Nominated by his gym teacher, Bonnie Rabin, Anthony was chosen based upon his excellence in both athletics and academics, as well as his sportsmanship in team activities. He received the Achievement Award for Scholarship and Athletics at a special ceremony held by the Town in May.



TIMBER POINT ELEMENTARY

Proclamation for Helping Others with Organic Garden



Fifth-grade students in Mr. Blackford's class at Timber Point Elementary School were honored with a special plaque by Town Councilman John Edwards. Recognized for their commitment to assisting others with their organic garden, the students received certificates of appreciation, as well as a class plaque, for their efforts. In April, Mr. Blackford's class, together with students from East Islip High School's Career Academy Program, planted an organic garden, which will benefit a local soup kitchen once cultivated. "Not only are you learning about organics and the importance of helping our environment," Councilman Edwards said in his presentation to students, "but you are helping those who are in need of food and assistance."

Mr. Blackford's class is pictured with members of the Career Academy and Councilman John Edwards.

Pen Pal Party

First-grade students from Timber Point Elementary School recently met their pen pals from the North Babylon School District. Throughout the



year, first graders in Mrs. Porcelli's and Mrs. Welton's classes at Timber Point corresponded with first graders in Mrs. Kreuscher's and Ms. Pluchinotta's classes from North Babylon. The children wrote letters and shared pictures and artwork throughout the year, which enhanced their reading and language arts skills in a



fun way. To conclude the school year, the North Babylon children visited **Timber Point** and the students had a chance to meet in person, play together, and share snacks. Pictured are some highlights from the pen pal party.

East Islip Union Free School District

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A Focus on Fine Arts

Students Honored at LI Media Art Show

Several students from East Islip High School received accolades at the Long Island Arts Show held at Five Towns College. Sponsored by the State Education Department, over 1,000 students from 30 high schools on Long Island submitted work for the show. East Islip's Broadcast TV and Indie Film students presented at the event and several of the students placed in their category. Tenth through twelfth graders in the Broadcast TV class earned a "Best In Show" designation for their collaborative effort in the production of a video titled "Action News Now." Two seniors, Adam Scrio and AJ Sammartino from the Indie Class, also won "Best In Show" for their film "Talk, Talk, Talking," for which they expertly used an iMax program to produce their winning work. In addition, three students were designated "Best In Show" for their pieces submitted to the Computer-Generated Digital Art category - Kristen Vogel, Shannon Vogel and Allison O'Brien.

Congratulations to all of these students on their artistic abilities.

Students Place in Art Competition

Three East Islip
High School
students from Ms.
Nelson's art class
had their work
selected for
participation in the
2010 Face & Figure
Juried Competition
and Exhibition.
Sponsored by the



Art Guild of Port Washington, the competition was held at the Gallery at Elderfields and was open to artists throughout the United States. This professional show featured ten student selections per subject matter. Katie Casal, Shawn Smith and Marissa Caico (pictured) each submitted a CD of their work and were chosen for participation. Both Marissa and Shawn received an honorable mention in the face and figure category, a distinction granted to only two people per area.





Festival of the Fine Arts

Art students at East Islip High School recently hosted a Festival of the Fine Arts, during which students enrolled in an art course at the school devoted an entire day to producing works of art. Each class worked on a project relevant to their course of study, while also benefitting another cause. For example, computer design students custom designed T-shirts for anyone willing to donate money toward student scholarships, while others painted garbage bins to benefit the Keep Islip Clean program. Pictured are highlights from the festival.





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