

*Masthead designed by Elena Aurrecoechea*



# The Big Duck

By Geovanni Valenti

In Flanders, New York, Long Island has its own Statue of Liberty - the Big Duck. The 20-foot-tall duck was built in 1931 by a duck farmer named Martin Maurer. It was built to serve as a shop to sell duck eggs, ducks and dairy products.

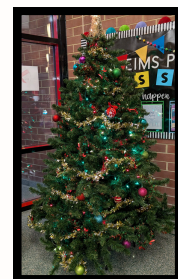
The building was originally constructed in Riverhead but in 1937, Maurer had the duck removed from its foundation and moved 4 miles away to his new duck ranch in Flanders. It stayed there until 1988, when the Suffolk County Department of Parks and Recreation acquired it and moved it to the Sears-Bellows Pond County Park in Hampton Bays.

It was repurposed as a gift shop operated by the Friends for Long Island Heritage before it was eventually moved back to its second location in Flanders in 2007. The Big Duck is an overall big part of Long Island and its history.

In this Issue:	Spirit Week Photos p. 2	Roblox Code p. 7	NFL Playoffs p. 8
-------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

## Spirit Week - December 16-20, 2024

*Photos by Mrs. Avella - more photos on next page*





## Spirit Week - December 16-20, 2024

*Photos by Mrs. Avella*



# All About Wood



By Geovanni Valenti

Wood is a structural tissue found in the roots and stems of woody plants such as trees. It is a natural composite of cellulose fibers that have strong tension resistance and embedded in a matrix of lignin which has a strong resistance to compression. The term “wood” can also be used to describe other plant materials with similar properties. It may also refer to materials engineered with wood, fiber, or wood chips.

There are 2 types of wood components, heartwood and sapwood. Heartwood is the darker wood, more central to the tree. It is resistant to decay as the result of a naturally occurring chemical transformation. Sapwood is the younger outermost wood of a tree. Its primary function is to conduct water from the roots and to store up and give back the reserves of nutrients in the leaves. All wood starts as sapwood.

Wood has been used for many purposes over thousands of years. It has been used for fuel, construction purposes, the creation of tools, weapons and paper and also for making furniture. Recently, wood has been used for the production of purified cellulose and its derivatives, such as cellophane and cellulose acetate.

Wood has been scientifically studied and researched since the 20th century through the discipline of wood science. In 2011, a forest in New Brunswick, Canada was discovered to have the earliest known plants to grow wood, around 395 - 400 million years ago.

To determine the age of a wooden object, carbon dating is often used. For some species of wood, dendrochronology is used. Known use of wood dates back to over 10,000 years ago. Buildings like longhouses in neolithic Europe were primarily made of wood. Recently, wood in construction has been strengthened by the addition of steel and bronze.

Like minerals, wood has many distinctive properties, including knots, color, and density. Knots are formed when lower branches die, and their bases become overgrown and enveloped in the newer layers of bark. Most species of wood have the following chemical compositions: 50% carbon, 42% oxygen, 6% hydrogen, 1% nitrogen. The other 1% is made up of small amounts of several different elements.

Wood has been a major part of human technology and construction. Nearly all boats were made of wood until the late 19th century. Wood is still a common material in boat construction today. Elm wood was often used in the construction of boats due to its resistance to rot as long as it was kept wet.

Lumber is the common term for trees used in construction. Medieval Europe only used oak for wood construction whether it be for floors, walls, doors or support beams. Wider varieties of woods are used today. Solid wood doors are often made from pine wood with small knots or douglas fir. Wood is very often used for furniture. Wood was used as art for thousands of years, an example being the totem poles sculpted by the northwest native Americans, the Kwakiutls.

Wood is also often used in sports. Legal use Major League Baseball bats are often made of ash, maple or hickory wood. Basketball courts are traditionally made out of parquetry. Ice hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, archery bows, and skis used to be made out of wood but are now made with more modern materials such as titanium, aluminum or composite materials such as carbon fiber or fiberglass. Traditional golf club heads were made of persimmon wood. Cricket bats are often made of white willow wood. Many musical instruments are made of wood, such as the violin, the cello, the piano, the harp, and the guitar.

*See Wood Glossary on next page.*



## Wood Glossary By Geovanni Valenti

*(See wood article on previous page.)*

Cellulose - The basic structural component of plant cell walls

Matrix - The continuous substance or material that surrounds and binds together the reinforcing fibers

Lignin - A complex organic polymer (a large molecule made up of repeating smaller units) found in the cell walls of plants

Xylem - A vascular tissue in plants responsible for transporting water and dissolved nutrients from the roots through the plant

Cellophane - A thin transparent film made from regenerated cellulose

Cellulose acetate - A semi-synthetic polymer made by chemically modifying cellulose

Carbon Dating - A method used to determine the age of organic materials by measuring the amount of carbon-14 they contain

Dendrochronology - The scientific method of counting tree rings to determine the age of a tree and analyze past climate conditions

Thanks to Mrs. Hummel and  
Mrs. Claiborne for helping with the  
December Kahoot in the cafeteria. We  
raised \$200 for needy families.  
The following students won a  
“Cool to be Kind t-shirt! Congratulations!

### **4th Period Lunch:**

Eleanor McRedmond, Anndrea Pumay

### **5th Period Lunch:**

Michaela Donnelly, Samantha Garatina

### **6th Period Lunch:**

Katherine Coughlin, Ashley DiPaola

### **7th Period Lunch:**

Madison Jankowski, Elisa Carlino

Wear your



t-shirt every Tuesday!



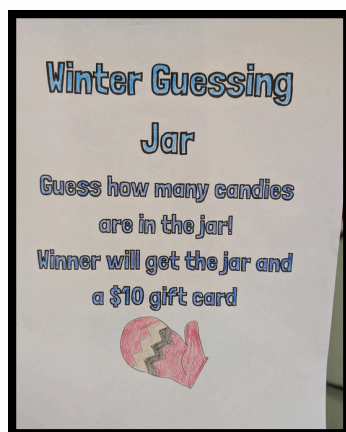
## Congratulations to this year's Gingerbread House Decorating winners!

*Photos by Mrs. Avella*

**Most Festive: Team #3**  
Julia Caviedes, Katherine Li,  
Madison Thorp, Savannah Pabon

**Most Creative: Team #1**  
Will Nawrath, Oliver Nawrath,  
Quinn Maher, Nick Salvia

**Best All Around: Team #11**  
Kaylee Brelsford, Ashley Menendez,  
Kendall Gilley, Grace Pickney



# JOLLY

Winter Guessing Jar Contest  
Run by Student Government

Congratulations to Danni Baumbusch who guessed 119 jolly ranchers in the jar. The actual number was 117! She won the jar of candy and a \$10 gift card.



## Roblox Game Development

### By Salvatore Tringali

So, I yap a lot. And I develop Roblox games. Therefore, I will talk about development. Thankfully, Roblox runs on probably the easiest to learn programming language imaginable, Luau, so getting started is simple. I watched a single tutorial and was immediately coding, mediocre at best, free models.

The most useful features to learn are tasks, for example, `task.wait()`, which is a more accurate and based way to use the `wait()` function, which is outclassed in every way imaginable. Additionally, `task.spawn()` is very good if you want to run code using `task.wait()` without it halting everything else that is not inside of that `task.spawn()`. Here is some code demonstrating it, if you'd like to open Roblox Studio and run it yourself. Insert a script into `ServerScriptService` and type this code:

```
task.spawn(function()
    for i = 1, 5 do
        print('Hello world!')
        task.wait(.1)
    end
end)
```

Other commands that are useful are “while true do” loops and “repeat” loops. “While true do” loops run indefinitely and cannot be stopped, (with the capability of crashing your game if you don't add in the `task.wait()` as mentioned before). “Repeat” loops run until something changes. For example, if you were to make it depend on a variable which has no value, you can make it repeat until that variable gets a value. Here are 2 code snippets, each using one of these features.

### WHILE TRUE DO LOOP

```
game:GetService('Players').PlayerAdded:Connect(function(plr)
    while true do
        if not player.Character then
            repeat
                task.wait()
            until player.Character
        end
        print(plr.Character.Humanoid.Health)
        task.wait()
    end
end)
```

### REPEAT LOOP

```
game:GetService('Players').PlayerAdded:Connect(function(plr)
    plr.CharacterAdded:Connect(function(char)
        repeat
            task.wait()
        until char.Humanoid.Health == 0 or char == nil
        print('player has died.')
    end)
end)
```



I will make a sequel to this for the February issue, thanks for reading.

## The NFL Playoffs

### By Matthew Rosand



As the 2045-25 NFL regular season ended, we saw some teams continue in the playoffs. In the NFC, the number 1 seed was the Detroit Lions with their 15-2 record securing a first round bye. The number 7 seed, the Green Bay Packers who were 11-6 took on the number 2 seed, the Philadelphia Eagles who were 14-3. The final score of that game was 22-10 Eagles. The number 6 seed, the Washington Commanders who were 12-5 took on the number 3 seed, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers who are 10-7. The final score of that game was 23-20 Commanders. The number 5 seed, the Minnesota Vikings who were 14-3 took on the number 4 seed, the Los Angeles Rams who were 10-7. The final score of that playoff game was 27-9 Rams.

In the AFC, the Kansas City Chiefs were the number 1 seed with their 15-2 record. The number 2 seed, the Buffalo Bills who were 13-4 took on the number 7 seed, the Denver Broncos who were 10-7. The final score was 31-7 Bills. The number 3 seed, the Baltimore Ravens who were 12-5 took on the number 6 seed, the Pittsburgh Steelers who were 10-7. The final score was 28-14 Ravens. The number 4 seed, the Houston Texans who were 10-7 took on the number 5 seed, the Los Angeles Chargers who were 11-6. The final score was 32-12 Texans.

In the divisional round in the AFC, the Kansas City Chiefs took on the Houston Texans. The final score was 23-14 Chiefs. The Buffalo Bills took on the Baltimore Ravens. The final score was 27-25 Bills.

In the NFC, the Philadelphia Eagles took on the Los Angeles Rams. The final score was 28-22 Eagles. The Detroit Lions took on the Washington Commanders. The final score was 45-31 with the Commanders pulling off a massive upset.

In the AFC conference championship game, the Kansas City Chiefs took on the Buffalo Bills. The final score was 32-29 Chiefs. In the NFC conference championship game, the Washington Commanders took on the Philadelphia Eagles. The final score was 55-23 Eagles. This means that the game for Super Bowl LIX on February 9, 2025 will be Chiefs vs. Eagles. In the next issue, we will recap the Super Bowl!



### What is a Seed?

When a league converts into Playoff Mode the system automatically generates a seed for each team in the league based on the Regular Season results. These seeds determine where the system places each team in the playoffs. The primary factors used to determine seeds are: Division Winner(s), Winning Percentage

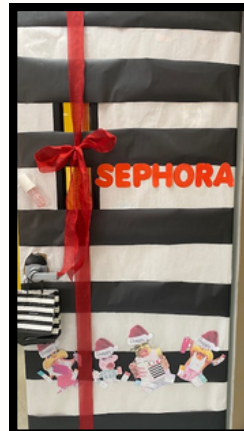
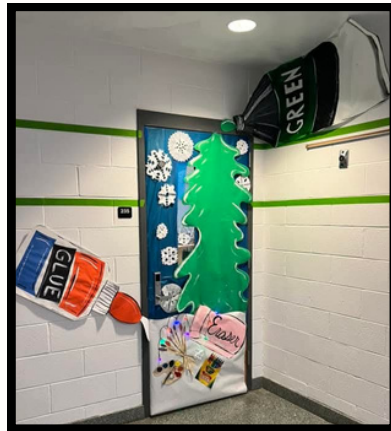
From <https://support.espn.com/>





## Doors and Festive Designs in December

*Photos by Mrs. Avella*





## Doors and Festive Designs in December

*Photos by Mrs. Avella*







**Word Search**  
**By Katherine Li**

**New Year New Me!**

V	R	K	E	Z	R	L	R	H	E	G	A	Z	K	D	L	T	L	A	E
R	B	V	Y	E	V	L	H	D	R	H	M	F	K	M	T	H	F	L	N
E	I	L	N	O	T	L	Y	H	D	N	R	I	E	U	T	B	Y	J	C
L	R	Q	U	S	C	J	P	R	R	G	I	A	H	L	E	R	J	V	I
K	H	C	J	F	B	B	W	A	E	E	W	X	R	I	W	U	R	R	S
R	H	P	G	U	Q	Y	E	N	E	O	E	U	J	Z	S	C	F	E	U
A	J	S	J	P	Q	F	J	E	Q	N	J	R	Y	M	R	L	T	S	M
P	R	O	V	S	S	O	R	A	W	R	Q	A	U	F	B	O	T	O	C
S	D	E	Q	D	T	R	Y	I	N	M	H	N	I	U	J	C	P	L	O
I	V	V	G	U	H	X	U	G	E	U	M	U	V	Y	O	G	N	U	U
C	Q	A	S	X	G	C	D	T	S	N	A	L	I	L	W	I	R	T	N
T	P	D	K	V	I	H	X	K	K	W	D	R	S	I	Y	J	A	I	T
Y	O	J	B	H	N	E	S	B	R	P	O	S	Y	M	I	Y	E	O	D
A	R	G	U	E	D	E	O	P	O	W	U	O	L	A	Y	T	Y	N	O
J	D	M	S	W	I	R	R	N	W	C	P	Q	W	F	O	R	W	R	W
U	L	E	F	H	M	S	Q	U	E	G	R	A	P	E	S	A	E	H	N
W	L	P	T	F	U	I	A	C	R	W	P	C	I	M	X	P	N	I	I
S	A	A	O	H	F	M	H	U	I	T	O	T	C	L	O	C	K	U	D
V	B	S	X	O	X	P	R	E	F	L	E	C	T	I	N	G	V	A	G
E	W	T	Q	T	X	T	F	L	V	T	Y	D	K	P	X	N	E	L	X

1. Newyear   2. reflecting   3. resolution   4. countdown   5. fireworks   6. sparkler  
 7. balldrop   8. midnight   9. friends   10. January   11. grapes   12. cheers   13. family  
 14. party   15. lunar   16. music   17. clock   18. past

## **EIMS Administration**

Principal: Mr. Montemarano

Asst. Principal : Mr. Spiegler

## **Newspaper Club Officers**

**President:** Elena Aurrecoechea

**1st Vice President:** Aaliyah Hardy

**2nd Vice President:** Anthony Mormile

**Co-Secretary:** Colin Belrose

**Co-Secretary:** Geovanni Valenti



## **Staff List**

Elena Aurrecoechea

Colin Belrose

Julia Caviedes

Aaliyah Hardy

Jaylin James

Alexa Leek

Katherine Li

Eleanor McRedmond

Anthony Mormile

Darian Primiano

Matthew Rosand

Savanahstar Samuel

Salvatore Tringali

Zoey St John

Geovanni Valenti

**Advisor:** Mrs. Avella

**Design Layout:** Jaylin James

