

EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025



HS STUDENTS EXPLORE NEW CULTURES FOR *World Language Week*

East Islip High School held its annual World Language Week from March 3-8, showcasing the linguistic richness within the school. Guided by National World Language Honor Society advisers Katie Paules and Rita Pinzon, students had a hands-on opportunity to explore new languages and cultures through a combination of games, trivia, crafts and music, focused on the theme of “World Languages, World Citizens.” Each day, the school celebrated a different language, including the three taught at the school, plus another language chosen from around the globe. American

Sign Language was on Monday, French on Tuesday, Italian on Wednesday, Spanish on Thursday and Japanese on Friday. The school’s cafeteria joined in the fun, offering themed foods for lunch on each day such as Monte Cristo French toast sandwiches, chicken parmesan and nachos grande. In addition, students participated in a poster contest to promote the benefits of learning another language.

“World Language Week is one of the many ways in which East Islip’s language program stands out from other districts,” Pinzon said.



Message *from the* SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear East Islip School Community,

As we welcome the spring season, it is inspiring to see the energy and excitement across our schools. Our students continue to shine in the classroom, on the stage, and on the field. From outstanding performance in our high school musical, upcoming spring concerts and art shows to impressive achievements in athletics and academics, there is so much to be proud of in East Islip.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events, including our spring sports season, academic

celebrations, award ceremonies, and, of course, graduation. These moments remind us of the strength and spirit of our school community. A huge thank you to our Board of Education, staff, and community for the continued support. Together, we are inspiring growth and creating a bright future for all our students.

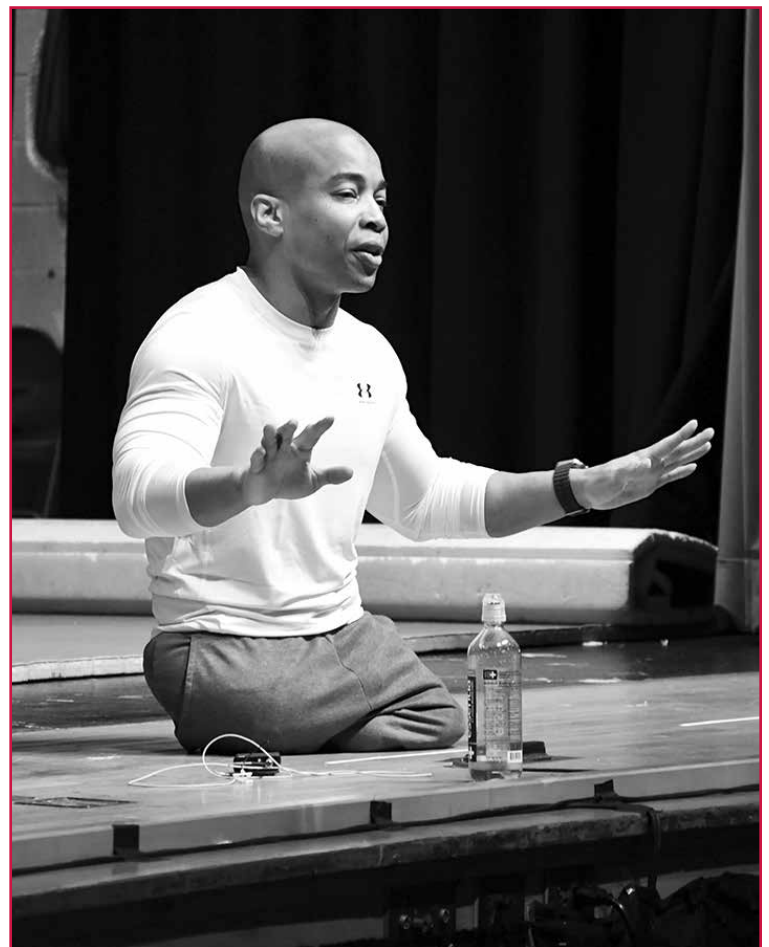
Wishing you a wonderful spring season!

Paul E. Manzo
Superintendent of Schools

East Islip Alum Challenges Middle Schoolers to **CHOOSE TO BE GREAT**

East Islip High School Class of 2001 alumnus and inspirational speaker Rohan Murphy recently paid a special visit to East Islip Middle School, talking to students about the importance of perseverance and doing your best. Murphy lost his legs at birth, and had not participated in sports due to this physical disability, but when he was an eighth grader, he was offered a position as equipment manager for the soccer, wrestling and tennis teams. He joined the wrestling team in his freshman year at East Islip, rising above adversity to become one of the school's most decorated wrestlers and earn three-time All-League and two-time All-County honors. He later wrestled at Penn State University before focusing on powerlifting. Representing the U.S., he won a bronze medal in 2006 at the International Paralympic Committee's World Powerlifting Championships in South Korea.

"As you get older, you have the same choice as me, to be average, good or great," Murphy told the middle schoolers in the auditorium. "I hope from here on out you choose to be great, to get the most out of life and do your personal best. Because as we all know, you get one life, so you might as well make it count, with or without legs."





East Islip Wins Two Quill Awards at Adelphi's Press Day

Members of East Islip High School's journalism class and school newspaper club recently attended Adelphi University's Press Day and Quill Awards. The students took advantage of this opportunity to learn about journalism from a panel discussion and various workshops led by esteemed Adelphi professors and professionals in the field. The highlight of the afternoon was the announcement of the Quill Award winners. East Islip's newspaper *The Broadcaster* took home two awards. Sophomore Brooke McCally earned an honorable mention for her opinion piece, "Maybe Athletes Don't Need Phys. Ed.," and junior Emilia Cicale won third place for Best Overall Reporter.



East Islip Middle School Administers First AMC 8 Competition

East Islip Middle School recently administered the AMC 8 for the first time, with Jacob Ruzicka winning first place, Zion Lee taking second, and Sully Griffin and Anna Humann tied for third. The nation's leading mathematics competition for middle school students, the AMC 8 is designed to cultivate the mathematical capabilities of the next generation of problem-solvers. Students who take the AMC 8 can develop creative quantitative thinking skills, which better prepares them to succeed in high school math classes.



Testing Skills at Physics Olympics

Under the guidance of physics teacher Fred Coulton, five East Islip High School students – Sameer Ali, Ryan Flad, Jesse Hodge, Adam Menendez and James Terhune – participated in the 39th annual Physics Olympics this spring at Farmingdale State College. At the event, sponsored by the Long Island Physics Teachers' Association, students worked together to solve physics challenges, fostering team spirit and communication skills. Teams competed in a series of five thrilling events that tested their creativity, problem-solving skills and understanding of physics concepts.

“The Physics Olympics is an exciting and hands-on competition that really brings physics to life,” Director of Math and Science Dr. John Genova said. “It was a fun, engaging and challenging experience for our students.”



Day and Night of STEAM Showcases Future Careers

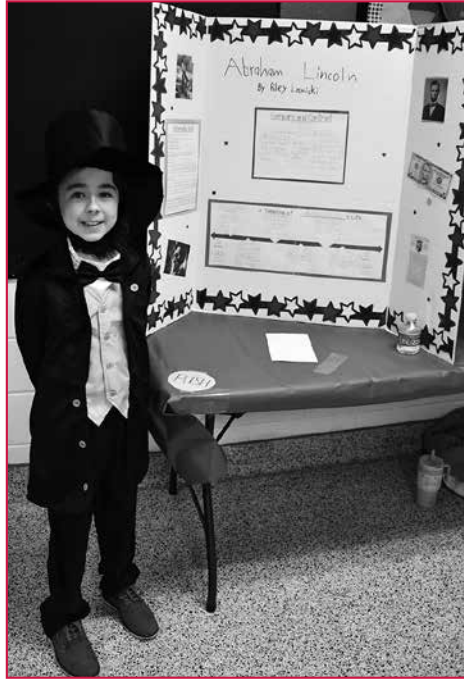
The East Islip School Business Partnership hosted its annual STEAM events in the East Islip High School gymnasium to prepare students for future careers utilizing skills in science, technology, engineering, art and math. STEAM Night, held on March 5, was open to all students in the district as well as community members, while STEAM Day on March 6 featured all of the district's second, fourth and fifth graders visiting the events. More than 80 high school students volunteered for the events, which featured hands-on activities and demonstrations to showcase the many classes, clubs and careers related to STEAM.



A Star-Studded Wax Museum at RCK

The third graders of RCK hosted the annual Wax Museum in March, dressing as famous figures from history, science, sports and entertainment such as Neil Armstrong, Lucille Ball, Walt Disney, Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein, Enzo Ferrari, Audrey Hepburn, Michael Jackson, Helen Keller, John F. Kennedy, Stan Lee,

Abraham Lincoln, George Lucas, Mike Piazza, Rosa Parks, Sally Ride, George Washington and Malcolm X. To prepare for the big night, the students had researched their chosen historical person's life and accomplishments, which they presented to visiting parents and family members.



Two Sophomores Chosen for Colors of Long Island Art Exhibit

Two East Islip High School photography students – sophomores Kathryn Simonetti and Caylee Smith – were recently selected for the 26th annual Colors of Long Island student art exhibition at the Long Island Museum. This year's exhibition display runs through May 18.





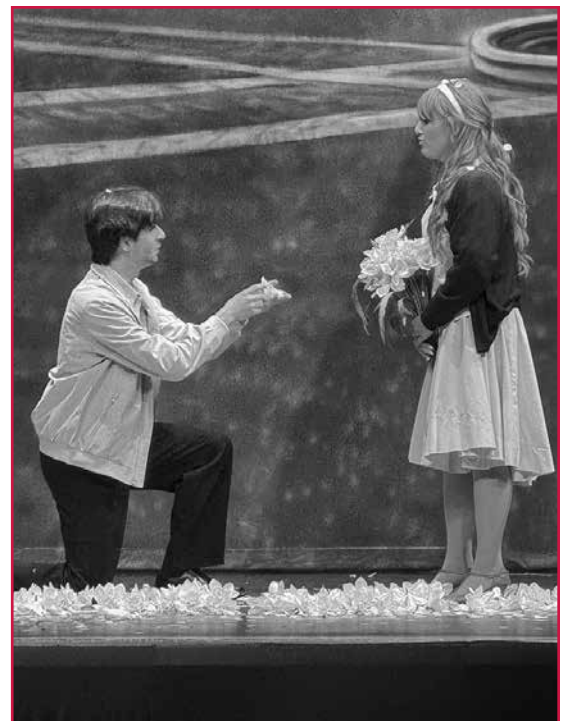
EHHS Actors Serve Up a 'Big Fish'

East Islip High School's theater students delivered rousing performances of the school's spring musical, "Big Fish," on March 20-22. The leading and featured actors included senior Tyler Hilms as Edward Bloom, senior Julianna D'Addario as Sandra Bloom, senior Keith Klein as Will Bloom, senior Juliana Banville as Josephine, senior Julianna Azzizzo as Jenny Hill, junior

Ethan Jensen as Karl the Giant, junior Anderson Ross as Amos Calloway, senior Stephanie Sabillon-Nunez as The Witch, freshman Kylen Curry as Don Price, freshman Wyatt Casdia as Zacky Price, freshman Lia Ciampi as Young Will, senior Emily Farrell as Dr. Bennett, sophomore Lauren Winiarski as The Mermaid, freshman Kendel Gravano as Alabama Lamb No. 1 and sophomore Paige Mathers

as Alabama Lamb No. 2.

"This was an extremely challenging show for all of us, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback from fellow students, faculty and community members has shown that our hard work was recognized and celebrated," director Bethany Affelt said. "Every single actor in the cast deserved the standing ovations they received at each performance."





Connetquot's Second Grade Doughnut Designers Create Tasty Treats

In a terrifically tasty art project, second graders at Connetquot Elementary School used their imaginations to design new doughnut flavors. North Fork Doughnut Company in Bay Shore chose one design from each second grade class to make into real doughnuts, which were sold at the store over a recent weekend. The winning doughnut designers were Sophia Castronova, Marcelo Cohen, Ethan Holleran, Luke Mohan, Giavanna Santelli and Hailey Windser.



Exploring Native American Ceramics at Day in Clay

In an exciting intersection of creativity, culture and clay, professional artist, sculptor and potter Cliff Mendelson recently brought another interactive Day in Clay workshop to fifth graders at JFK and RCK. In this hourlong, hands-on ceramic arts program, students explored Native American

vessel making and design. Mendelson first shared his expertise as he demonstrated the art of creating pottery on a wheel, providing the students with knowledge concerning how vessels are designed and their connection to various cultures, giving them a firsthand experience involving a working craftsman. The fifth graders

then created their own individual clay vessels using the style, symbols and techniques of Native American artists.

“It is always an inspiration for me to see the faces of the students and their sense of accomplishment as they learn to transform a simple lump of clay into a beautiful work of art in just 60 minutes,” Mendelson said.



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Champions of the Courtroom: El Mock Trial Team Wins County Title

East Islip High School’s mock trial team emerged victorious in the Suffolk County Championship on April 2, delivering a standout performance in the final round, held at the Suffolk County



Surrogate’s Court in Riverhead. Judged by the Hon. Vincent J. Messina Jr., the team faced off against Northport High School in a high-stakes battle of legal minds. East Islip’s decisive win was the culmination of months of hard work and collaboration. Making it to the finals was a total team effort, with all 14 members – alternating between plaintiff and defense roles – contributing throughout the season. Coached by social studies teacher Patsy Lester and attorney Brian Mitchell, the team has been a playoff mainstay for years, but this season’s success is particularly sweet. With the county title secured, East Islip now advances to the New York State finals in Albany, where the top eight teams in the state will compete for the title of state champion from May 18–20.

Timber Point PE Students Get Heart Smart

Timber Point students recently got “heart smart” in physical education classes, putting not only their hearts to work, but engaging their brains as well. The students learned about the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, nutrition and the food groups, as well as how to use the MyPlate system to create healthy, balanced meals.



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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