

Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Fall 2010

HOMECOMING 2010

Daler Pride was on full display on Friday, October 22, as the Farmingdale community came together for the district's annual Homecoming football game. The evening kicked off with a lively pep rally, during which the grandstand at Farmingdale High School was overflowing with green and white. The FHS marching band wowed the audience with a series of amazing musical performances while the award-winning Dalerettes kickline danced to the tunes.

The varsity football team put on its own show for the cameras of *MSG Varsity* as it took on the Syosset Braves. Led by senior quarterback Sal Tuttle's three touchdown passes, the Dalers took a 19-0 lead in the first half en route to a 34-6 victory. Homecoming King Jamal Stewart and Queen Alexa Floresta were crowned during a ceremony at halftime.

The homecoming festivities were the culmination of the annual Spirit Week, which began on October 18. Throughout the week, students and teachers showed their school spirit by dressing up for '70s Day, Green and White Day and others. "Although I am proud to be a Daler every day, Spirit Week truly reminds me of why Farmingdale is a great place to live and why FHS is a wonderful school to attend," said Student Government Vice President James Gunn.

Many thanks to our talented student-athletes and performers, as well as all of our student and staff volunteers, for putting on a spectacular show and making this a Homecoming to remember!



Did You Know...?

- Northside second grader Lucas Battista asked his birthday party guests if they would consider bringing nonperishable food items as gifts instead of presents. The seven-year-olds generously collected 150 pounds of food, which Lucas donated to Long Island Cares.
- Saltzman East Memorial parents have formed their very own Beautification Committee, adding artistic touches to the school's hallways and cafeterias.
- Farmingdale High School social studies teacher James Hughes was named Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars. This award recognizes Mr. Hughes's excellence in teaching and his dedication to the academic success of his students at FHS.

Board of Education Sets Forth an Overarching Goal for the District

"We will establish Farmingdale as a high-achieving school district, as evidenced by high levels of student performance in all areas including New York State assessments and Regents exams."

See Board of Education message on page 2.

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and Board Meeting Agendas,
Sign on to: www.farmingdaleschools.org



A Message From Your Board of Education

Dear Friends:

In preparation for the 2010-11 school year, the Board of Education worked throughout the summer to identify a comprehensive list of our shared principles, beliefs and ultimate mission as educators. The result was the establishment of a formal goal toward which the Farmingdale School District will strive in the months and years ahead:

We acknowledge that there are certain basic principles that shall guide the Board of Education in its actions and activities on behalf of our students and our community. The mission of the Farmingdale School District is to educate our students to become independent thinkers and problem solvers. It is our goal to empower each student to meet the challenges of tomorrow's emerging world. The district will provide a safe, nurturing environment in which individual and civic responsibility is fostered, diversity is respected and all students are enabled to realize their full potential. To that end, we will:

Establish Farmingdale as a high-achieving school district, as evidenced by high levels of student performance in all areas including New York State assessments and Regents exams.

This summer was a busy one for our entire administration and staff. Throughout the district, we worked hard painting, cleaning, polishing and rearranging the furniture to prepare for the opening of school.

The central administrative offices have been relocated to the Grant Avenue wing of Weldon E. Howitt Middle School. The Board Room and the middle school main office have moved to the Van Cott Avenue entrance by the flagpole, where new handicapped access is provided. These changes should lead to a much improved flow within Howitt Middle School.

Other summer projects throughout the district included classroom renovations and the installation of two new life skills rooms. The Howitt Middle School gymnasium floors were refinished, and the ceiling tile- and light-replacement work has continued. A new staff parking lot has been created at the back of Howitt to relieve congestion at the front of the building.

We have new staff members among us, as well. We know that you will help us to welcome the new principal of the Woodward Parkway Elementary School, Patrick Klocek, and the new director of mathematics, Nancy Lin. They have been working with our administrative team all summer preparing for the return of our students.

We're excited about the progress our students will make in the coming months, and we hope you will be too.

Very truly yours,

The Farmingdale Board of Education

Shari Bardash-Eivers, President

Stephen G. Wilson, Vice President

John E. Capobianco • Russ Catanzaro

Tina Diamond • Kathy Lively • Rick Morrison

New Faces in the District

The Farmingdale School District is proud to welcome two new administrators for the 2010-11 school year.



Patrick Klocek joins the Farmingdale family as the new principal of Woodward Parkway Elementary School. Since 2006, Mr. Klocek has served as assistant principal at P.S./I.S. 178 in Jamaica Estates, Queens. During his four years there, he worked closely with the principal to enhance students' educational experiences while also supervising the installation of middle school grades into what was previously an elementary school. Mr. Klocek began his career as a third- and fourth-grade teacher at P.S. 173 in Fresh Meadows. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from St. John's University and a master's degree and professional diploma in reading and school district administration from Long Island University.

"I firmly believe that teaching is the most fun and rewarding profession that one can choose," Mr. Klocek said. "I consider myself truly fortunate that I can say that I love what I do for a living."



Nancy Lin is the district's new director of mathematics for grades K-12. A former school administrator in New York City, Ms. Lin began her career as an elementary school teacher and later spent six years teaching secondary school mathematics. In 2001, her students and principal nominated her for Disney's Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Lin received her B.A. from Columbia University, where she graduated cum laude. She received her M.A. in instructional technology and media from Columbia's Teachers College, followed by state certification as a school administrator from Hunter College. As a lifelong learner, she is currently pursuing her doctorate in math, science and technology at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Ms. Lin counts among her unique talents the ability to solve a Rubik's Cube in less than five minutes. "If anyone has a Rubik's Cube that needs to be fixed, feel free to bring it to my office," she said.

Best wishes to Mr. Klocek and Ms. Lin for much success in their new roles.

Farmingdale Welcomes Its Newest Educators



The Farmingdale School District greeted 17 new teachers as they participated in a three-day orientation program in early September, coordinated by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Joan Ripley.

(L-R) standing: Yvonne Piascik, Charlotte Kalista, Lori Poletti, Jennifer K. Jensen, Joshua Bein, Kerri Miltenberg, Jennifer Bleicher, Laurie Syvertsen, Sarah Schubert, Jeanne Kuhner, Jessica Martinez, Jackie Verre and Eric Dunne; seated: Stephanie Arciere, Stephanie Gibbons, Kimberly Viskoc and Beth Ann Randazzo.



What's Happening in Our Schools

Smooth Start Volunteers Lend a Hand at Albany Avenue

Kindergarteners at the Albany Avenue Elementary felt right at home during the first few weeks of school, thanks to the Albany Avenue PTA's Smooth Start Committee. PTA volunteers escorted the kindergarteners from their buses to their classrooms to help them learn the ropes and get comfortable with their new routine. The volunteers helped out in the cafeteria — bringing the children to their tables, opening drinks and snacks and showing them how to buy lunch — and in the classrooms, where they helped the students fill and unload their backpacks, organize supplies and line up for dismissal. The teachers, staff and students all appreciate the extra hands.

Smooth Start volunteers help students off the bus at Albany Avenue.



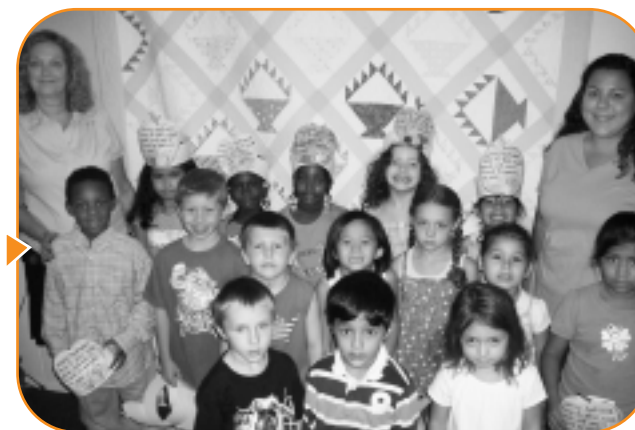
Students and Staff 'Fall Back Into Northside'

On September 7, Northside Elementary School welcomed the newest members of the Farmingdale Schools family: the kindergarteners who will become the Class of 2023! There were smiles on the faces of the kindergarteners — and parents, some of whom were a little teary-eyed, were treated by the PTA to the traditional “Boo-Hoo” Breakfast in Bicentennial Hall. The entire Northside community celebrated the return to school with the annual *Fall Back Into Northside* Picnic on September 24. Chili's of Farmingdale generously catered the event, and entertainment was provided by physical education teacher David Stein and his band, Rock Study.

Mr. Stein (second from right) and Rock Study perform at the Fall Back Into Northside picnic.

'A' is for 'Appleseed' at SEM

Students in Barbara Karp's first grade class at Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School enjoyed learning about Johnny Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed. They read stories about this real-life American folk hero, sang songs and celebrated his accomplishments with applesauce and apple juice for a snack. The children made predictions on a graph about which kind of apple they would enjoy the most: red, yellow or green. During parent visitation day, they tasted all the apples and went back to their predictions to see any differences. The activities culminated with the class singing “Once a Little Appleseed” to the entire school through the public address system in Principal Dr. Eve Dieringer's office.



Ms. Karp (left) and her students with student teacher Johanna Hernandez (right)



Buckets Are Full at Woodward Parkway

To enhance its Character Education program, Woodward Parkway Elementary School has started a Book of the Month program. Each month, a different book will highlight specific character traits. To emphasize the traits of respect and responsibility, every classroom received a copy of the book “How Full is Your Bucket?” Written by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer, and illustrated by Maurie Manning, the book demonstrates how words and actions can affect our “invisible buckets” and the buckets of people around us. When a person uses a kind word or action, a drop falls into his or her bucket. However, when we use unkind words or actions, a drop spills out. The children at Woodward Parkway have begun filling their buckets with compliments and kind words. Pictured are the students in Deborah Anderson's second grade class, who created buckets and filled them with words and phrases such as “friendship,” “respect,” “smiling” and “helping others.”

Howitt's 6th Grade Orientation is a Family Affair

On August 24, the incoming sixth graders visited Weldon E. Howitt Middle School in order to become familiar with their new surroundings and meet their new classmates. They also took part in the Howitt trivia game, asking the panel of Howitt teachers, guidance counselors and administrators questions about their new school. While the students were becoming acquainted with one another, the parents stayed in the auditorium as Principal Luis Peña gave an overview of policies, procedures and student life at Howitt. Once the overview was complete, the parents and students toured the building and followed the students' new class schedules. They were invited to return to the building as many times as they felt necessary to ensure a smooth transition to middle school.



FHS Students Explore Choices and Consequences

Farmingdale High School hosted the *Choices and Consequences* program on September 20. Sponsored by the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, *Choices and Consequences* is an interactive presentation designed to combat drunk, drugged and reckless driving. The goal of the program is to reduce injuries and deaths in this most vulnerable age group, as traffic crashes are the number one cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Assistant District Attorney and Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief Maureen McCormick, Nassau County Police Department Lieutenant Gus Kalin and guest speakers John Kim and Shawn Gallivan presented their message of safe driving tactics and dangerous driving practices to more than 700 members of the high school community.

(L-R) FHS Principal Glen Zakian, ADA Maureen McCormick, Assistant Principal Kathy Keevins and NCPD Lt. Gus Kalin



Music Notes



The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) has selected 10 of Farmingdale's finest student-musicians to participate in the annual Winter Conference in Rochester on December 2-5. These students were chosen for this prestigious honor based on their performance at the NYSSMA Solo Festival last May, where All-State adjudicators scored them on various aspects of musicianship, including scales, sight reading and the performance of a NYSSMA Level VI musical selection. The students' handling of intonation, musicality, dynamics and other significant music concepts were all considered.

Congratulations to our All-State representatives:

James Andersen, band alternate
Roberto Cantos, mixed chorus
Isabella Corrao, band alternate
Emily Dorso, symphonic band
Brian Entwistle, wind ensemble

Marisa Esposito, symphonic band
Meghan Hassett, vocal jazz
Michelle Rosenberg, women's chorus
Amanda Simms, string orchestra
Kimberly Wolf, mixed chorus



(L-R) Front row: Kimberly Wolf, Marisa Esposito, Michelle Rosenberg and Meghan Hassett; back row: Farmingdale High School Principal Glen Zakian, James Andersen, Brian Entwistle, Chorus Director Michelle Lindsley, Emily Dorso, Wind Ensemble Director Gina Pellettiere, Amanda Simms, Orchestra Director Sam Gelfer, Roberto Cantos and Fine Arts Director Rita Padden. Not pictured is Isabella Corrao.

The rigorous All-State competition features students from every county in New York State; the top achievers are selected to perform in the Festival. Receiving the nomination as an All-State musician is an extremely high honor, but the training doesn't end with this achievement. The selected students received their musical scores in October and must learn and memorize them. When they arrive in Rochester in December, they will participate in three days of intensive rehearsals, culminating in the All-State Festival concert performances. Farmingdale High School is extremely proud of its All-State students and their teachers – Orchestra Director Sam Gelfer, Chorus Director Michelle Lindsley and Wind Ensemble Director Gina Pellettiere – for their tremendous dedication and hard work.



FROM THE SPORTS DESK



FHS is a Scholar/Athlete School of Distinction

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) recently honored Farmingdale High School as a School of Distinction for having all 28 of its varsity sports teams recognized as scholar/athlete teams during the 2009-10 school year. A scholar/athlete team must maintain a combined grade-point average of at least 90 percent during its sport season. Every one of Farmingdale's teams achieved that goal last year. In addition, our girls' lacrosse and boys' tennis teams were named scholar/athlete state champions for earning the highest GPA's in their sports out of all New York State teams. They are the latest of 10 teams from Farmingdale to earn this distinction since 2004.

FHS Principal Glen Zakian and Director of Athletics Jeanne Berkoski (center) accept the School of Distinction award from NYSPHSAA Assistant Director Robert Stulmaker (left) and Past President Patrick Pizzarelli (right).



Kelly McPartland (center) with Farmingdale High School Principal Glen Zakian and girls' lacrosse Head Coach Shari Campbell

Lacrosse Standout Kelly McPartland Joins National U-19 Training Team

In August, US Lacrosse and Team USA selected Farmingdale High School senior Kelly McPartland as a member of the 2011 United States Women's National Under-19 Training Team. Kelly's selection cements her status as one of the top high school lacrosse players in the country, as she is one of only 24 high school athletes chosen for this honor. She will train with the team throughout the year in hopes of representing the United States at the quadrennial Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) Under-19 World Championship, which will take place next summer in Hannover, Germany.

Congratulations to Kelly on this outstanding achievement. The Farmingdale School District wishes her much success in the months ahead.

FHS Seeks Nominations for 14th Annual Wall of Fame Induction

The Wall of Fame was established to honor distinguished Farmingdale High School alumni. Located in the FHS lobby, the wall displays the plaques of all honorees.

Candidates for the Wall of Fame must have graduated from FHS at least 10 years ago and been successful in their academic pursuits. They must also be role models to our current students, as evidenced by their achievements. Last

year's honorees were award-winning inventor, entrepreneur and mathematician Joseph M. Balcuk (Class of 1994); celebrity makeup artist Jane Galli (Class of 1975); and Superintendent of Schools John Lorentz (Class of 1971).

A nomination form may be obtained from the district website, www.farmingdaleschools.org, or picked up in the main office of any of our district schools, as well as in the Farmingdale Public Library.