

Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Fall 2015

The goal of the Farmingdale Public Schools is to establish ourselves as a high achieving school District, as evidenced by high levels of student performance in all areas.

CAMPUS TRANSFORMED

Summer Capital Improvements Unveiled to Rave Reviews

If you stopped by the grounds at Howitt Middle School, you've probably noticed the large-scale transformation at the campus courtyard. Indeed, it would be hard to miss; brand new walkways, a new lawn, raised garden beds, additional wheelchair ramps, heated walkways, security gates and new academic learning areas—mostly completed over the summer and ready to go by the first day of school. The result of this work is a courtyard area that is much safer, more open and more aesthetically pleasing. Transitioning from one class to another through this courtyard is easier than ever before, and more work is on the way. By winter, the District hopes to add a canopy system that will allow for easy mobility during the colder months. Also completed during the summer months was the refurbished entrance at Farmingdale High School. Similar to the middle school, these changes create a safer and more open environment for our students.

It wasn't just the middle school that saw capital improvements during the summer. Nearly 150 classrooms districtwide were the recipients of various energy-performance projects. Many classrooms were completely renovated—new ceilings and ceiling lights, redone floors and repainted walls. Additionally, the work was performed as part of the energy-performance projects, which came at no additional cost to the taxpayer; all the work was paid using money the District saved with its lighting replacement initiative.

The work is part of the District's belief that by continually improving the facilities and grounds at schools, students receive a better educational experience. The initial response from the community has been very positive. Thank you for your support and patience during the construction process. And if the pictures on this page aren't enough, be sure to come see the revamped campus for yourself!



Farmingdale Schools and the Community Join Together to Read Award-Winning Book

It did not take long for *Wonder*, the 2012 novel by author R.J. Palacio, to become a literary phenomenon. Children (and adults) around the country were instantly moved by the book's powerful message of acceptance, by the way R.J. Palacio so artfully represented the hopes and fears that all young people experience. Over the fall, *Wonder* came to Farmingdale, as participating students in every school in the District are reading the book and working on several activities and projects that more deeply explore the themes, conflicts and characters.

The districtwide project is supported every step of the way by the Farmingdale Public Library. Extra copies of the book were added to every branch—both in schools and in the community—and book-sharing programs are set in place, enabling all those who wish to read the books an easy opportunity to do so. Over the course of the extended project, readers will be able to share their thoughts and opinions using the hashtags #DalerWonder and #DalerKind. The District will hold a World Café on Saturday, February 27, 2016, an event at which students, parents, teachers and community members will have the opportunity to come together and discuss this powerful book, and what the act of kindness meant to them.

A winner of a multitude of Literary Awards, *Wonder* tells the story of 10-year-old Auggie Pullman, who suffers from a rare facial deformity, and his challenges as he navigates his first year in a public school. The book is distinct in that it tells the story from the point of view of Auggie and other characters, including the bully. This provides a variety of voices and perspectives, enabling readers to more fully understand and empathize with the decisions each character makes.



Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Farmingdale Union
Free School District

CAR-RT SORT
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Farmingdale Public Schools
Administrative Offices
50 Van Cort Avenue
Farmingdale, New York 11735

A Message From Your Board of Education

On behalf of each of us on the Farmingdale School District Board of Education, we would like to welcome you back to another school year. The autumn represents such a thrilling time in Farmingdale Schools—the possibilities for the months ahead are endless, and we can't wait to see what our talented students will accomplish this year in our classrooms, on our athletic fields and throughout our community.

The 2015-16 school year promises to be an exciting one. Kicking off the year is our District's partnership with the Farmingdale Public Library. Together, students in every school will be reading the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. A resonating story of acceptance and overcoming adversity, *Wonder* tells the story of a home-schooled young boy born with a rare deformity and his experiences entering public school for the first time. By reading the book in unison as a District, we ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to hear this powerful message and open new lines of communication among students.

Though they were absent of students during the summer months, our schools were teeming with work. Over the summer we embarked on districtwide capital improvements, making facilities improvements—large and small—at each of our six schools. (You can read additional information on page one of this newsletter.) The response to the work by our community has been overwhelmingly positive; we can't thank you enough for supporting this work, and we believe that the improved facilities will offer our students the safest, most technologically advanced and cleanest classroom environments in which to study.

Over the summer, we also held a Technology and Learning Camp for educators in the District. The camp afforded our teachers the opportunity to learn about the constantly changing technology in use in our schools, how to incorporate these electronics into their classrooms, and how to best use these new tools in their day-to-day lesson planning. By having the best-available technology, and by training our educators to use it properly and efficiently, we enhance the educational experience for all of our students.

We value your involvement and input, and we ask that all parents and other community members become and remain active in District meetings, committees and events. We encourage you to get to know your children's teachers and participate in monthly PTA and Board of Education meetings, all of which are listed on the District calendar. We continue to believe that a major strength of the Farmingdale School District is our ability to work cooperatively and respectfully together. In that spirit, we wish each of you a successful and rewarding year.

Very truly yours,

The Farmingdale Board of Education

Michael Goldberg, President
John E. Capobianco, Vice President
Trustees: Russ Catanzaro
Mario Espinosa
Anthony Giordano
Kathy Lively
Ralph Morales

New Director and New Assistant Principal Join Farmingdale School District



Joshua Anisansel
Director of Secondary
English and Reading



Arlene Martinez
Assistant Principal of
Farmingdale High School

One of the best parts of the beginning of the school year is the addition of talented new teachers, staff and administrators. Undoubtedly, all our new hires bring to the District valuable new perspectives and experiences, and improve the education our students receive. This year, Farmingdale School District is proud to add our new Director of Secondary English and Reading, Joshua Anisansel, and our new Assistant Principal of Farmingdale High School, Arlene Martinez. All of us in Farmingdale are excited to see what Mr. Anisansel and Ms. Martinez will offer for the students of our community.

Educated at SUNY Buffalo, Queens College and Fordham University, Joshua Anisansel brings years of experience to Farmingdale. Prior to joining our community, Mr. Anisansel served as the Director of K-12 English with the Long Beach School District, where he was instrumental to all facets of the English curriculum.

Arlene Martinez joins Farmingdale after several successful years as Assistant Principal at West Hempstead High School and an English Supervisor at Baldwin Middle School. Ms. Martinez received her education at St. Francis College, Hofstra University and Stony Brook University.

We are all extremely excited to add educators of the caliber of Joshua and Arlene to our District. Welcome to Farmingdale!

Seeking Nominations for the 19th 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. 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.

The deadline for the receipt of applications is Monday, January 4, 2016. The induction ceremony will be held on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Farmingdale High School's Thomas W. Guilford Lecture Hall.

What's Happening in Our Schools

Albany Avenue Elementary School

In October, **Albany Avenue Elementary School** celebrated Farmingdale's Spirit Week. It was a fun-filled five days, one that bolstered school spirit and created lasting memories. Students dressed up throughout the week—which culminated with the districtwide homecoming—for various themes, which included College Day, Daler Day and Superhero Day. But perhaps the highlight of the week came on Wednesday, when Albany Avenue held its annual Miniature Pep Rally. Albany Avenue invited high school cheerleaders, dance teams and football players to the elementary school to showcase routines and give the younger students a presentation on work ethic, leadership and character building. Also during the pep rally, teachers awarded several students with Leadership Prizes, intended to recognize those students who set an exemplary standard for their peers.



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

Lyle Cogen, an award-winning singer-songwriter, visited several Farmingdale District schools recently—including **Woodward Parkway Elementary School**—to teach a powerful, anti-bullying message. On October, 16, Lyle visited the school to present her distinctive style of theater—one marked by energy, high spirits, and an uplifting message—and demonstrate how children can cope with bullying and how they can make a difference in their schools. It was a fun, entertaining event, one that highlighted the character education principles the Farmingdale School District has long extolled. Thank you to Lyle Cogen!



Howitt Middle School

Starting in a new school can be a challenging time for any student, but **Howitt Middle School** eases the transition through its annual 6th Grade Meet and Greet event. Sponsored by Howitt's Parent Teacher Association, the Meet and Greet provides an opportunity for new students and their parents to meet other new students and share their experiences from the first few days of middle school. It's a fun day, filled with music, dancing and snacks—as well as a few seventh and eighth graders on hand to show their younger classmates the ropes. Thank you to everyone who participated!



Northside Elementary School

As part of a districtwide event to raise awareness for breast cancer, **Northside Elementary School** recently welcomed renowned singer Gloria Gaynor to talk to students about overcoming adversity and believing in themselves. And it was all thanks to Mia Smith, a Northside fifth grader whose mother overcame breast cancer. Mia created Pink Out, a schoolwide event that encouraged students and teachers to wear pink to show their support. Mia rallied her classmates—together all the classrooms collected more than \$2,000 for breast cancer research. But it wasn't just Mia's fellow students who were inspired; Gloria Gaynor was so moved by Mia's actions, the famed pop star agreed to match Northside's donation! Congratulations to Mia and her classmates. Your actions give all of us a great example to follow.



Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

The school year at **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** got off to an interesting start, with a schoolwide reading of the inspirational book *Only One You* by Linda Kranz. A story about the deep love shared between children and their parents, *Only One You* teaches young readers a powerful message about sharing wisdom and making a difference in the lives of people around them. In each classroom, the story was read aloud, and after the reading, students created artistic fish that represented both themselves and characters in the story. The artwork is displayed proudly in the school—a lasting representation of a fun, and important, classroom activity.



Farmingdale High School

Ryan Fox, a senior at **Farmingdale High School**, was recently presented with an Award of Excellence for his exceptional representation of Farmingdale High School and New York State at the 2016 Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders held in Boston, Massachusetts. The Congress is an event organized by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to recognize honors-level high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering, and math—the STEM—subjects. The purpose is to support and inspire the best science and technology students in the country as they strive to turn their dreams into ambitions. Ryan was presented the award to acknowledge his outstanding academic performance, leadership potential and dedication to serving humanity. Congratulations Ryan!



12 FHS Students Selected for All-State and All-National Performing Groups

To be invited to perform at a New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State festival or a National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National festival is a prestigious honor for a young music student and the school district they represent. This year, Farmingdale School District was honored to have 12 students—7 ensemble and 5 alternates—to a festival as part of an All-State or All-National performing group. It is truly a representation of the ability of the students and the quality of the music education they receive in Farmingdale.

NYSSMA sponsors an annual festival at which students play a prepared piece and receive a rating. Students are judged on every aspect of performance, including tone quality, technique, musicianship, interpretation, musicality, dynamics and sight-reading ability. When students reach tenth grade, they become eligible to compete for the All-State and All-National auditions if they have achieved outstanding proficiency. The competition is very rigorous because students from across every county of New York compete against each other for All-State, and students from every state in the country compete for All-National. These students perform a piece for an adjudicator who issues a score and evaluation form. Privately the judges make a recommendation to the state and national committees. Students also need recommendations from their ensemble director, music administrator and high school principal.

Only the most talented and accomplished performers are chosen. Students receive their music in early October and must have it completely learned for the October All-National conference in Nashville or the December NYSSMA conference in Rochester. They arrive at each conference and have intense rehearsals for three days, culminating in the concerts. We couldn't be more proud of our students for receiving this prestigious honor.



*1st row: Gina Pellettiere, Wind Ensemble Director; Claire Zatorski, Mixed Chorus Director; Samuel Croes, clarinet; Lisa Bianco, chorus; Nadina Espinosa, chorus; Therese Mannino, Orchestra Director; and Barbara Lieberman, Band Director.
2nd row: James Silverstein, All-National Chorus; Devon VargasVelez, Mixed Chorus; Abigail Grote, Symphonic Band; and Kaitlyn Meriam, Women's Chorus.
3rd row: Ed Kozlowski, Vocal Jazz Director; Helena Rhein, Chorus; Suzy Kang, chorus; Evan Torres, Mixed Chorus; Giovanni Maraboli, Symphonic Band; Rita Zirpolo Padden, Fine Arts Director; Jessica Mischke, Women's Chorus Director; and Glen Zakian, High School Principal.*



(L to R) Farmingdale High School students Brianna Sison-Gilmore, Ashley Burbano, Kelly Alvarez, Stephanie Merrill, Carly Monteagudo, Madison Migliaccio and art teacher Ms. Nicholas enjoying Farmingdale Village's Fifth Annual Art in the Park festival.

FHS Student Artists Attend 'Art in the Park' for the First Time

In collaboration with high school art teacher Regina Nicholas, student artists from Farmingdale High School recently exhibited their impressive artwork at the Farmingdale Village's Fifth Annual Art in the Park festival held at Village Green. The event featured artists from all across Long Island; this was the first year students from Farmingdale High School were included.

Students from Ms. McEnery's, Ms. Nicholas', Ms. Palermo's and Ms. Rummenie's art classes displayed their digital pieces, paintings, drawings, fashion designs and ceramics. Of the students, Brian Salgine, a junior in Ms. McEnery's digital photography class, won second place for his digital photography submission. Congratulations to all of our talented artists!

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Congratulations to Coach Buddy Krummenacker! Member of the Inaugural Class of Nassau County's Athletic Hall of Fame



Last spring, Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano and the Nassau County Public High School Athletic Association established the Nassau County Athletic Hall of Fame and released its inaugural list of inductees. On that list was Farmingdale's own football coach, Buddy Krummenacker. Last month, a ceremony was held honoring the inductees.

A FHS class of '65 graduate, Buddy Krummenacker began coaching at his alma mater in 1993, capturing seven county titles. During his career, which also included a head-coaching position at Hempstead High School, Coach Krummenacker led his teams to five conference championships and five Rutgers Cups. He was also a five-time winner of the Nassau County Football Coach of the Year Award. Coach Krummenacker's induction into the Nassau County Athletic Hall of Fame is a deserving tribute to a wonderful career.

The Hall of Fame—a privately-funded endeavor—was created to recognize, preserve and promote the heritage of interscholastic sports in Nassau County. It will be located in the newly renovated/reconstructed Nassau Coliseum!