

Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Spring 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.

2015 Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Monday,
April 27, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Farmingdale
High School

Thomas W. Guilford
Lecture Hall

Details on page 2!

FHS Wins Brookhaven's Regional Science Bowl; Is Headed Back to D.C.!

For 25 years, Brookhaven National Laboratory has hosted the Long Island regional competition of the National Science Bowl. A science competition centered on chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics and astronomy, along with general, earth and computer sciences, the Brookhaven contest is open to every student who attends a Long Island school. But when the 2015 event was held in late January, five students from Farmingdale High School stood above them all. Clarrise Baes, Jake Chammas, Ramin Chowdhury, Dan Laine, Suraj Muralidharan and Coach Peter Macchia will head to our nation's capital this spring to challenge the best and brightest science students the United States has to offer.

During the regional competition, the FHS team competed against 15 other Long Island schools for the right to attend the 25th Annual U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl (NSB). In an exciting finish, FHS defeated Great Neck South High School to win the competition. Last year's champion, Ward Melville High School, came in third place, while Longwood High School was the fourth-place division winner.



The national competition has come a long way since the U.S. Department of Energy created the contest in 1991. In the ensuing years, nearly a quarter of a million brilliant young students have participated in the competition. "The National Science Bowl has grown into one of the most prestigious science academic competitions in the country. It challenges students to excel in fields vital to America's future," said U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. "I congratulate these students for advancing to the National Finals, where they will be among some of the brightest science and math students from across the country."

"These students worked very hard and practiced nearly every school day," said Coach Peter Macchia. "Their hard work put Farmingdale High School on the map and gave us the recognition as a strong academic school."

Team captain Suraj Muralidharan agrees with the coach. "We were a little disappointed when we took fourth place last year," said Suraj. "It made this year's victory even sweeter. We congratulate all of the teams and recognize how hard they had to work to participate in this contest."

The FHS team will have a few weeks to savor this victory before it gears up for the big contest, which will be held over the final days of April. Clarrise, Jake, Ramin, Dan, and Suraj will try to win one of the many great prizes being awarded. The top 16 high school teams and the top eight middle school teams in the National Finals will win \$1,000 for their schools' science departments. And while the awards for the top two high school teams at the 2015 NSB have yet to be announced, the prizes from the 2014 competition were spectacular. The winners of the 2014 NSB received a nine-day, all-expense-paid science trip to Alaska, where they learned about glaciology, marine and avian biology, geology and plate tectonics. The second place team was awarded a five-day, fully guided adventure tour of several national parks.

Dreaming of prizes to be won is hardly the style of serious science bowl competitors, however. Their focus must surely be on learning and preparation. While they are hard at work, we can offer our congratulations and wish each of them all the best in Washington, D.C.

We are proud to announce that all varsity winter teams have achieved Scholar-Athlete Team status. This is the 17th consecutive season that our athletes have attained this honor. Our Daler athletes continue to achieve great success with their teams and in the classroom. Congratulations!

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

Important Budget Information and Upcoming Dates

The Board of Education is hard at work developing Farmingdale's 2015-16 budget proposal. As with every budget season, our District faces significant challenges in developing the 2015-16 budget. We strongly urge you to attend our upcoming Board meetings. For more information, please contact District Clerk Mary E. Rogers at (516) 752-6552.

Voter Information

Q. Who is permitted to vote in the Annual Budget Vote and Election?

Only registered voters are permitted to vote. All residents who are registered for either school district or general elections are eligible to vote without re-registering, provided they have voted in a general or a school election within the last four years.

Q. Can anyone register to vote?

A person may register to vote if he or she is a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the District for at least 30 days.

Q. Where can I register to vote?

Voter registration will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at the Summit Expo & Health Fair from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Farmingdale High School Gymnasium and on Saturday, May 9, 2015 in the Howitt East Lobby from 3-9 p.m. Residents may also register on weekdays in the Office of the District Clerk between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The last day to register is Thursday, May 14, 2015.

Q. Can I vote if I will not be in town on the day of the election?

Absentee ballots are available. Please contact the District Clerk for an application for an absentee ballot and/or information regarding the absentee ballot process. Note that individuals who are designated as "Permanently Disabled" by the Nassau County or Suffolk County Boards of Election will be sent an absentee ballot automatically.

Q. If I have questions about voting, whom should I call?

If you have any questions regarding registration, eligibility to vote, or absentee ballots, please contact Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk, at (516) 752-6552. For District information and board meeting agendas, log on to www.farmingdaleschools.org.

■ **Wednesday, March 18 – 8 p.m.**

BOE Special Meeting - Budget Workshop
Howitt East Cafeteria

■ **Wednesday, March 25 – 8 p.m.**

BOE Special Meeting - Budget Workshop/Public Input
Proposed 2015-2016 Budget
Howitt East Cafeteria

■ **Wednesday, April 15 – 8 p.m.**

BOE Regular Meeting
Adopt Farmingdale Budget for Voter Approval
Howitt East Cafeteria

■ **Tuesday, April 21 – 8 p.m.**

BOE Special Meeting/Adopt BOCES Admin. Budget
Howitt East Cafeteria

■ **Wednesday, May 6 – 8 p.m.**

BOE Regular Meeting
Howitt East Cafeteria

■ **Tuesday, May 12 – 8 p.m.**

BOE Special Meeting/Public Hearing/
Proposed 2015-2016 Budget
Howitt East Cafeteria

■ **TUESDAY, MAY 19 – 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION
Howitt East Gymnasium

You Are Invited to the 2015 Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Monday, April 27, 2015 • 6:30 p.m. • Farmingdale High School • Thomas W. Guilford Lecture Hall

This year's Wall of Fame honorees are excellent role models for the students of the Farmingdale School District. They are (in alphabetical order):

Lieutenant Kenneth J. Doyle

Graduated 2000

Kenneth J. Doyle, a Marine Transport Specialist, is also a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserves and a member of the United States Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. Lt. Doyle has successfully completed a fifteen-month tour of Iraq in June of 2010 and a sixteen-month tour in Afghanistan in October of 2013. He attended Massachusetts Maritime Academy, US Army JFK Special Warfare School, Colorado Technical University and US Army Command and General Staff College. He is a recipient of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Device, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Non-Article 5 NATO & ISAF Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Navy Overseas Service Ribbon and the Armed Forces Medal. During his career, Lt. Doyle was also named a Navy Rifle Marksman and Navy Pistol Sharpshooter.

Professor Ellen S. Podgor

Graduated 1970

Professor Ellen S. Podgor teaches in the area of white collar crime, criminal law, and international law. A former deputy prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, she presently serves as The Gary R. Trombley Family White Collar Crime Research Professor. She is also the editor of the highly ranked White Collar Crime Blog and chair of the Advisory Committee of the NACDL White Collar Criminal Defense College at Stetson University. She is the President of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS), chair of the AALS Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities Issues, and honorary member of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers. In 2010, Professor Podgor received the Robert C. Heeney Award, the highest honor given by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She is also the recipient of the Dickerson-Brown Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship and the Homer & Dolly Hand Award for Excellence in Research. Most recently, in 2014 Professor Podgor received the J. Ben Watkins Award for Excellence in the Legal Profession.

Mr. Thomas Tsaktsirlis

Graduated 1985

Thomas Tsaktsirlis has been an active Farmingdale Volunteer Fireman since 1980 and a Nassau County Fire Marshall and NYS Emergency Medical Technician since 1996. He was the recipient of The Farmingdale Fire Department Award for Service and was recognized twice by the Nassau County Executive for Distinguished Service: once for his actions on June 4, 2013 at a LIRR train collision and then again, for his unprecedented heroic response and performance of duty during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Tsaktsirlis was also recognized by Nassau University Medical Center for nine years of dedicated service, as well as for his assistance and performance of duty on the evening of January 25, 1990 when responding to the crash of Avianca Flight # 52. In 2004 and 2005 he served as president of the Volunteer and Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association of Farmingdale. Over the course of his career, Mr. Tsaktsirlis has completed course work on Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations, Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher, Biological Incidents Awareness and Personal Radiation Detection. In addition, Mr. Tsaktsirlis has volunteered in his community through St. Killian's Church, the PTA, Girl Scouts, and the Fire Service Academy.

What's Happening in Our Schools

Albany Avenue Elementary School

Public school students have the ability to be a powerful, positive influence in the community. Last month, more than 300 **Albany Avenue Elementary School** students were just that; they participated in the school's annual food drive/faculty basketball game, an event that gathered hundreds of non-perishable food items for families in need. In addition to the food drive and basketball game, the children also created colorful posters that they displayed to support their favorite teachers and administrators. Students who donated food items received decorative paper paws with their names on it, which are on display in the school's hallway.



Northside Elementary School

Northside Elementary School has taken PARP one step further and branched out from "Parents as Reading Partners at home" to "Parents as Reading Partners in the public library"! On January 29, students and their families engaged in a *Family Reading Night* with the Farmingdale Public Library. It was a collaborative effort between the school's Shared Decision Making Team, PTA and the Farmingdale library. The event was well attended by primary and intermediate students and alumni siblings. Elena Janella, the children's librarian, used a multi-media presentation to narrate the book, *My Teacher is a Monster* to more than 175 people. Principal Febraro took on the role of "the teacher"—the giant red hat and tutu helped him get in character. Families engaged in reading their favorite books while cuddling on blankets and pillows. During reading time, teachers did "freezes" and asked trivia questions about characters from classic literature. Lastly, over 20 books and accompanying stuffed animals were raffled off as door prizes. As the night ended, Mr. Febraro and Ms. Anderson were delighted to see many parents and students at the check-out counter, stacks of books in hand!



Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

Few topics in American History are as complicated, fascinating and important as the story of Native Americans. Fourth grade students at **Saltzman East Memorial School** recently learned about the cultures, customs and traditions of Native Americans by participating in an innovative "in-school" field trip titled *Journeys into American Indian Territory*. Through hands-on activities, storytelling, role playing and artwork, the children experienced a brief, yet powerful, look into an absorbing, too-often-overlooked culture.



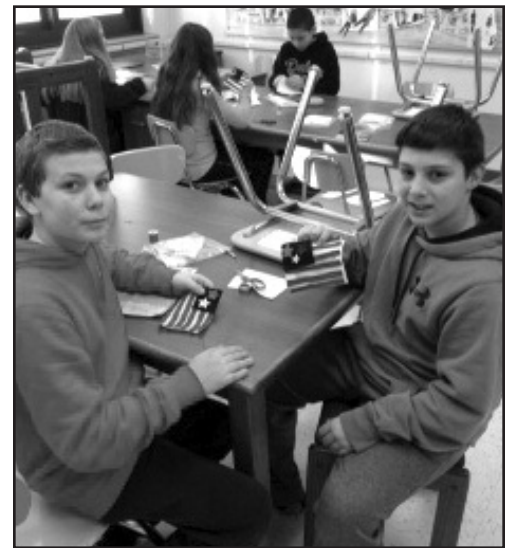
Woodward Parkway Elementary School

The **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** community is proud of our sustained efforts to promote literacy. In December, we hosted our fifth annual Barnes and Noble Night, at which teachers served as guest readers, and our music department conducted performances to attract families to participate in the event. With standing room only, families listened to holiday music and read and talked about books. A portion of the sales were donated to the school to purchase *Books of the Month* in the future. In February, we launched our Parents as Reading Partners Week (PARP) with an assembly featuring parents and mystery dancers from our staff who encouraged students to read. PARP contracts were distributed and all students who completed their contracts received free books at our Book Fair. Finally, we hosted our *Family Read In Night* on February 26. On this night, 30 staff volunteers and 100 families participated in a fun-filled evening complete with Family Flashlight Reading, Mystery Staff Readers, Book Bingo and Bookmark/Puppet Making. Together, we are working to instill a love of reading in our students!



Howitt Middle School

While holidays such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day offer special occasions for Americans to honor service men and women, it is important to keep their sacrifices in mind throughout the year. To that end, family and consumer sciences students at **Howitt Middle School** recently participated in the national Operation Gratitude program by sewing 250 small flag pillows and writing letters. The pillows and letters were then sent to those serving overseas. Every year, Operation Gratitude sends over 150,000 care packages filled with snacks, entertainment, hygiene products, hand-made items, and letters of appreciation to recruits, veterans, first responders, care givers and individually named U.S. service members deployed overseas.



Farmingdale High School

If you happened to find yourself on the campus of Long Island University Post recently, you may have seen some beautiful art work on display by two **Farmingdale High School** students. As part of an exhibit titled *Advanced Visions 11: High School Artists of Excellence*, FHS art students Julia Maher and Sara McMonagle had their paintings featured at LIU Post. Julia and Sara were chosen due to the consistent quality of their work in advanced placement art classes, and they joined distinguished art students from 30 schools across Long Island. Congratulations to Julia and Sara!



MUSIC AND FINE ARTS NEWS

100 Farmingdale Students Selected to All-County at Tilles Center

Talented students from schools all over Nassau County were selected for the prestigious All-County Music Festival held at the Tilles Center this January. The musicians were chosen based on their scores in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Adjudication Festival and by teacher recommendations. This year, 100 Farmingdale students were chosen in several divisions, including Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz!

In addition, several students were individually honored. In Division II Band, Cooper Malanowski played lead trombone and performed solos. In Division IV Orchestra, Samuel Croes was the principal clarinet and performed solos. Abigail Grote was the principal bassoon and performed solos. In Division IV Band, Christina Esposito was the principal bassoon and performed solos. In Division V Band, Suraz Muralidharan was the principal alto saxophone and Matthew Mackenzie was a soloist on timpani. In Division V Orchestra, Elizabeth Meyer performed a French horn solo. In Vocal Jazz, Tyler Belo sang solos. And in Women's Chorus, Rebecca deTurris performed a solo. Congratulations to all performers!

The selected students spent weeks preparing for the concert. Before and after school, and during lunch time, teachers worked with the musicians and helped them prepare for the challenging music they would be playing. Farmingdale teachers involved in this exhaustive effort were secondary teachers Sam Gelfer, Barbara Lieberman, Jonathan Bley, Gina Pelletiere, Jessica Mischke, Emily Rhodes, Andy Segale, Matthew Szabo, Jen Tower, Danielle Tucker and Claire Zatorski; along with elementary teachers Joe DeAngelis, Matthew DeMasi, Joan Drewes, Pat Facchiano, Erika Felker, Erica Hartmann, Becky Korn, Therese Mannino, Katie Duke and Phil Scanze.



1



2



3



4



5

- 1) Sixth grade students in All-County Division 2
- 2) Farmingdale High School students in Division 4
- 3) Farmingdale High School students in Division 5 and Vocal Jazz
- 4) Elementary students in All-County Division 1
- 5) Howitt students in All-County Division 3

FROM THE SPORTS DESK



Farmingdale Wrestling Team Claims Conference Championship

The young men of the FHS wrestling squad wrapped up their regular season in impressive fashion: They captured the conference championship crown! The victory ensured that the Dalers would be strong contenders at the county tournament, and they did not let us down—they were named runners up after being narrowly edged out by Long Beach. Coming so close to winning the whole county has filled the FHS wrestlers with a resolve to get back to the tournament next year, and we can't wait to see how they fare. Congratulations!

For the Second Year in a Row, FHS Principal Glen Zakian Is Voted Best Principal on Long Island!

"This recognition is a reflection of the outstanding work of the administrators and faculty of FHS"

FHS Principal Glen Zakian has dedicated his career to public education and, after winning consecutive Best Principal awards from the Long Island Press, it is safe to say that Long Islanders have taken notice. The award, which is voted on by residents, seeks to honor the principal that best develops a positive school culture and makes the learning environment one of which everyone wants to be a part. Through his tireless commitment to students, and to improving our community through public education, Principal Zakian has done just that. His work ethic, positive attitude, and aptitude for the position have made him a role model to everyone in the Farmingdale School District—teachers, students and parents alike. The myriad accomplishments of FHS students in academics, the arts and athletics over the past seven years clearly demonstrates the high quality job Principal Zakian is doing, and we here in the District are lucky to have him. Congratulation Principal Zakian, Best of Long Island Press' 2015 Principal of the Year!

