

Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Spring 2016

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.

2016 Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Monday,
April 18, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Farmingdale
High School
Thomas W. Guilford
Lecture Hall

Details on page 2!

Across the District, Focus on Positive School Atmosphere and Fostering a Culture of Respect

At each building in the Farmingdale School District, educators and school leaders are implementing innovative and productive new ways to address the issues of how students interact with one another. It's all part of the District's goal to maintain a culture in which students feel comfortable, supported and protected.

At the elementary level, regular programs such as Character Trait weeks and Friendship Clubs stressed the importance of building strong character by teaching about respect, kindness, responsibility and compassion. At the middle school level, collaborative projects such as the Buddy Bench, International Dot Day, the Mitten Drive and Wellness Wednesdays encouraged cooperation, discipline and civic responsibility. At the high school, programs, seminars and lessons that stressed dignity and respect for one another became an essential part of the standard classroom curriculum.

Last fall, participating students in every school in the District read *Wonder*, which 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. Students worked on several activities that explored the themes, conflicts and characters presented in the book's touching story. Several initiatives took place across the entire District, including the collaborative reading of the award-winning book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. In February, Farmingdale held a World Café, an event at which students from all schools were able to come together and discuss this powerful book.

The commitment to maintaining and cultivating a positive school culture is one Farmingdale School District educators take very seriously. As the semesters go by, more and more programs—many of which are as ambitious and thought-provoking as the reading of *Wonder*—will come to Farmingdale.



“ I really enjoyed the message in Wonder, about pledging to ‘choose kind.’ It was very powerful. I still remember my favorite line from the book:

‘How can you get harmony when everyone sings the same note?’ ”

– Joseph Kessler, a student at Howitt Middle School who reported on the *Wonder* reading event for his school's online newspaper. Check out the Howitt Middle School's webpage for more information on articles by our student reporters.

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

You Are Invited to the 2016 Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Monday, April 18, 2016 • 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 Colonel Carl A. Curriera

Graduated 1984

Lieutenant Colonel Carl A. Curriera graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1990. He began his career in Germany as a Fire Support Officer and was subsequently assigned as Firing Battery Platoon Leader and then a Battalion Adjunct. After completing the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, Lt. Colonel Curriera served as Battalion Fire Support Officer, Assistant Battalion S3 and a Battery Commander. Later he was assigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana where he served as a Fire Support Plans Officer and Firing Battery Observer Controller within the Joint Readiness Training Center. From June 2000 to September 2011, he served on the Army Staff in the Office of the Army Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) as an action officer and then as the Executive Officer to the Director of the Army QDR. In 2003, he graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and was assigned to Camp Hovey, Korea and then Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as Chief of Operations and Plans Division and as Executive Officer to the General Command within the Army Human Resources Command. Afterwards, he served as the Chief of Staff, BRAC Chief, Advanced Education Programs Branch and finally as Executive Officer to the Director of the Officer Personnel Management Directorate. Lt. Colonel Curriera holds a Bachelor's Degree from the United States Military Academy and a Master's Degree in Telecommunications Management from Webster's University. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (6th Award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Army Achievement Medal (6th Award), Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Timothy Kubart

Graduated 2002

Timothy Kubart, a former Farmingdale High School Playcrafter, is the host of NBC Universal's Sprout Channel television show called "Sunny Side Up" which airs live each weekday from Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan. With his co-host Chica the Chicken and numerous celebrity guests, including the First Lady of the United States of America, Mr. Kubart performs sketches and sings songs for his national audience of preschoolers and their families. Mr. Kubart, who has performed in the Macy's Day Thanksgiving parade and at over 600 birthday parties, has released two children's albums, the latest of which, "Home" has won a 2016 Grammy Award. Mr. Kubart, who is a talented guitarist and bass player, has moonlighted on NBC as a house musician for seasons 7 – 9 of "America's Got Talent" which was performed live from Radio City to 12 million people nationwide. After teaching over 5,000 music classes, to keep up with the ever-increasing demand for high quality music education, Tim Kubart launched "Tambourine Kids" which trains teachers to provide fun musical experiences and lessons for young people. As a professional actor and voiceover artist, Mr. Kubart has also starred in several national commercials and campaigns, such as NBC's PSA Campaign, "The More You Know".

Captain Kenneth A. Niederberger

Graduated 1986

Captain Kenneth A. Niederberger, a Navy Special Warfare Officer and Director of Afghanistan Operations, U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, is considered by his peers to be "one of our nation's finest warriors". Captain Niederberger graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1990 and was designated a SEAL in 1991. Captain Niederberger was assigned to a number of different SEAL teams and served as an element leader for a maritime mobility element. After being deployed to Bosnia in support of a Joint Task Force, Captain Niederberger was assigned to SEAL Team Six, a Naval Special Warfare Development Group, as a TEAM Leader and Squadron Commander. As a Navy SEAL, Captain Niederberger was deployed numerous times to combat zones worldwide supporting various joint operations such as Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. During his Navy career, Capt. Niederberger was awarded the Silver Star, Five Bronze Stars, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation, Navy Commendation and two Navy Medals, plus several combat action and campaign ribbons.

Mr. George (Butch) Starkie

Graduated 1975

George (Butch) Starkie is the successful owner and operator of four horticulture businesses including two of Long Island's North Fork farms, a seed and fertilizer company and Starkie Brothers Garden Center in Farmingdale, NY. Mr. Starkie, a strong advocate for Long Island's agricultural community, has served as a member of the Long Island Farm Bureau and on the Board of Farmingdale State College's Department of Horticultural and Design Committee. After 35 years of experience in business management, fiscal oversight, public service and community relations, Mr. Starkie was elected Trustee for the Incorporated Village of Farmingdale in 2006 and Mayor of Farmingdale Village in 2008. As a local business owner, resident and elected official, Mr. Starkie has dedicated so much of himself to preserving and improving all aspects of the Farmingdale Community.

FHS Student Presented With 'Award of Excellence' by National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists

Farmingdale High School student Ryan Fox stands with Principal Glen Zakian and holds his "Award of Excellence," recently presented to him by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists for his exceptional representation of Farmingdale High School and New York at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston, Massachusetts.

The National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists was founded on the belief that educators must identify students who take to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects at an early age and help these students acquire necessary experience. The academy is an honors-only, membership organization chartered in 2014 to inspire and support all K-12 and college students who wish to devote their lives to the sciences and technology. The award that Ryan received acknowledges his outstanding academic performance, leadership potential and dedication to serving humanity. Congratulations Ryan!



What's Happening in Our Schools

Albany Avenue Elementary School

In January, award-winning artist and muralist Esther Tollen began a residency at **Albany Avenue Elementary School** and began working with fifth grade students. In a project sponsored by the PTA, Ms. Tollen taught the young students the styles and techniques of painting on ceramic and porcelain tiles, with inspiration provided by influential Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky. After weeks of work, every fifth grader in Albany Ave had created his or her own tiles, and, in an unveiling ceremony held in March, the beautiful tiles were displayed to family, friends and the community as part of a fantastic mural. Located in the main lobby of the school, the mural will be a constant reminder of the talent of our students, and the intrinsic, communal value of an arts education.



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

In an effort to further students' study and understanding of jazz, **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** teacher Erica Hartmann took the school's Jazz Band to the Corona, N.Y. home of one of the most influential musicians in American history, Louis Armstrong. A jazz trumpeter, composer, singer and cultural icon, Louis Armstrong moved to Queens after a transformative and tumultuous youth in New Orleans. The students in the Jazz Band were allowed to take a tour of the home and grounds, and they listened to recordings that Louis made with his wife Lucille and their friends. The house opened to the public as a museum in 2003 after Lucille bequeathed it to New York City. Much of American history can be learned through the study of the country's artists, and by visiting the home of Louis Armstrong, Woodward Parkway students were able to learn from one of the best.



Northside Elementary School

In March, **Northside Elementary School** held its annual Family Math and Literacy Night, an evening that allowed parents and family members to experience first-hand the exciting work being done by children in the school. Created by the school's Shared Decision Making (SDM) Committee, Family Math and Literacy Night included students in kindergarten through fifth grade working on collaborative math and literacy activities with their family members. One of the many highlights of the evening was when grade three students Giana Guidice and Thomas McCauley led a workshop titled "Can You KenKen?" which taught students and parents how to complete KenKen puzzles. The night allows parents and guardians to get an authentic view of what students are learning and connect with other members of the Northside community. The annual night is one of the highlights of the school year, and the 2016 edition was certainly no exception!



Howitt Middle School

Imagine not having the resources to be able to give your child a birthday cake, to not be able to enjoy the simple pleasure of celebrating your child's special day. Thanks to two classes of dedicated and thoughtful students at **Howitt Middle School**, fewer families in Nassau County will have to experience that hardship. Children in Ms. Gatti and



Mr. Marzillier's classes recently collected a variety of products—cake mix, frosting, candles, decorations, small gifts, etc.—that were then used to make "Birthday Boxes" for disadvantaged children throughout the county. The project was inspired by the proposal of students Alyssa and Kim Fields. The "Birthday Boxes" were sent to organizations that handled the distribution to families in need. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the project; their unwavering commitment to paying it forward is inspiring and uplifting.

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

It's never too early to instill in children the importance of caring about heart health and living a heart-healthy lifestyle. Students and teachers at **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** observed American Heart Month in February and helped to promote healthy choices with a Wellness Week. A fundamental component of living heart-healthy is staying active; as such, students in grades four and five participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program under the direction of their physical education teachers. Jump Rope for Heart encourages students to be active, practice their jump rope skills, learn how their heart works and raise money to help others. Additional activities during Wellness Week included walking the track at recess and bringing in heart-healthy snacks. Students and teachers also wore Wellness Week-themed attire to help show their support for this important cause.



Farmingdale High School

Recently, **Farmingdale High School** art teacher Regina Nicholas and visiting artist Edgar Jerins collaborated on a lesson exploring the fascinating still life art style of the 17th century. Drawing and Painting students, as well as Advanced Placement Art students, learned about



"Vanitas," a genre of painting featuring the use of symbolic objects that convey a moral message. The artists of the 1600s used still life painting as a means to express displeasure with society's focus on material goods and lack of spiritual attention. Students drew from life and painted using oils. Arts in Education funding helped make this collaboration and multi-disciplined lesson possible. The resulting beautiful student paintings were on view in the Farmingdale High School Library throughout the winter and into spring.

MUSIC NEWS

The Talent of Farmingdale's Student Musicians on Full Display During the Marvelous All-District Band Concert



The Farmingdale All-District Band Concert, held earlier this year, is a unique, unifying event; bringing together all six Farmingdale schools, the concert provides the community a rare opportunity to take in the best student musicians at all levels in one wonderful evening.

At the concert, ensembles performed a variety of pieces, including marches, patriotic odes, contemporary band pieces and in-demand popular music such as works from—of course—*Star Wars*. Perhaps the highlight of the evening, however, was the finale; all 300 students in the combined grade levels filled the stage and orchestra pit to perform a rousing rendition of

John Williams' *Summon the Heroes* in celebration of 2016 and the upcoming Olympic games.

Spectators were left in awe at the ability displayed by the young musicians. Many parents commented about the outstanding Farmingdale music program, the achievement of each ensemble, and the spectacle of the finale. Perhaps Dr. Joan Ripley, Farmingdale's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, said it best when addressing the students after the show: "You really touched our hearts. That is what music is all about: A gift we all can share. Thank you for a wonderful evening."

Important Budget Information and Upcoming Dates

The Board of Education is hard at work developing Farmingdale's 2016-2017 budget proposal. As with every budget season, our District faces significant challenges in developing the 2016-2017 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.

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 Saturday, May 7 at the Howitt East Lobby from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Residents may also register on weekdays in the Office of the District Clerk between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The last day to register is Thursday, May 12.

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, April 6
BOE Special Meeting /
Budget Workshop / Public Input
Proposed 2016-2017 Budget
Howitt East Cafeteria
8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13
BOE Regular Meeting /
Adopt Farmingdale Budget
for Voter Approval
Howitt East Cafeteria
8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19
BOE Special Meeting /
Adopt BOCES Admin. Budget
Howitt East Cafeteria
8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10
BOE Special Meeting /
Public Hearing 2016-2017
Budget Proposed Budget
Howitt East Cafeteria
8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17
Budget Vote & Election
Howitt East Gymnasium

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

For the 6th Consecutive Year,
ALL Farmingdale Varsity Winter Teams
Earn Scholar-Athlete Status

Once again, the winter athletic teams at the Farmingdale School District continue to excel on and off the field; each winter team achieved scholar-athlete status!



A team is awarded scholar-athlete status when the cumulative GPA of its members is over 90. It can be a challenge for students to juggle the dual responsibilities of academics and athletics; earning such sterling grades is testament to our student's discipline, determination and intelligence. Way to go 'Dalers.

See below for a more detailed breakdown.

TEAM	# OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING	TEAM AVERAGE
Boys' Basketball	14	90.73
Girls' Basketball	14	94.37
Wrestling	25	90.62
Boys' Swimming	34	92.52
Boys' Winter Track	77	95.20
Girls' Winter Track	59	95.02
Boys' Bowling	21	93.36
Girls' Bowling	11	91.72
Cheerleading	26	91.98

