

Our Schools

The Community Newsletter of the Farmingdale Public Schools • Winter 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.

MAKERSPACE AT FARMINGDALE

As our culture becomes ever more dependent on emerging technologies, the Farmingdale School District is consistently looking for ways to offer diverse and vital Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) instruction. To that end, the District is implementing its Makerspace, a flexible learning space that fosters inquiry-based learning by exposing students to a variety of technological tools and research resources for problem solving, collaboration and innovation.



The Makerspace provides students with opportunities to learn through trial and error and guide their own learning. The flexible Makerspace also allows students to experiment with new and existing tools for activities such as coding, robotics and 3D modeling. Familiarity with such tools, coupled with advanced problem solving skills, will provide Farmingdale students with a significant edge in their future professions.

Maker activities will take place during lunch periods and after school for all students who are interested. Maker activities aligned to the curriculum will also take place during classes in collaboration with teachers of various subjects. During a unit on ancient civilizations, for example, a Social Studies class may create and study 3D model pyramids and ziggurats. For students willing to take their knowledge of such tech tools to the next level, and in turn, share their knowledge in their classes, clubs are available after school.

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Northside Welcomes New Assistant Principal Christopher Peterson!

Everyone here in the District is excited to welcome Christopher Peterson to the Farmingdale community as the new Assistant Principal of Northside Elementary School! Mr. Peterson joins Farmingdale after a variety of experiences in the classroom. He served as an Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teacher, an elementary classroom teacher and, most recently, as a special education teacher and team leader. Mr. Peterson received his education at SUNY New Paltz, St. Joseph's College and Stony Brook University. He is currently continuing his own education, pursuing his doctorate at St. John's University. Welcome to Farmingdale Schools, Mr. Peterson!

CLASS OF 2016 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED

Farmingdale is proud to announce that Suraj Muralidharan, from Saltzman Elementary (5th grade) and Howitt Middle School, and Clarisse Baes from Saltzman Elementary (K-2), Woodward Parkway (3-5) and Howitt Middle School, have been named FHS Class of 2016 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Stay tuned to future newsletters for more information, and congratulations to Suraj and Clarisse.

Long-time FHS Coach Inducted into a National Hall of Fame! See Page 2.

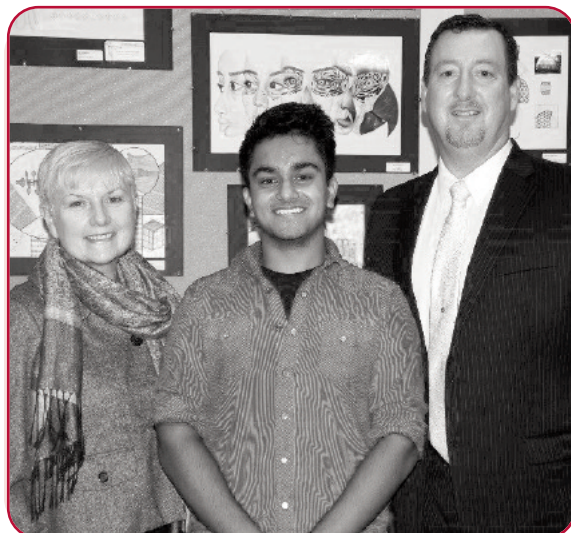
WINNERS AND ACHIEVERS

Howitt Middle School Goes to Infinity and Beyond!

There aren't many subjects that intrigue the imagination of young and old quite like outer space, which might explain why the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama is such a beloved institution. Recently, two teachers and two students from our own Howitt Middle School took a trip to Space Camp, thanks to their dedication to STEM education and a generous grant from Northrop Grumman.

Teachers Ms. Calabro and Ms. Devine, along with students Karen Orellana and Shania Wiley, were invited to take part in the NASA's Space Academy for Educators Program, which is designed for teachers who want to advance education in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. The program uses astronaut-training techniques to engage teachers and students in real-world applications of STEM subjects through hands-on activities and missions aimed at developing teamwork, leadership and decision-making skills.

Highlights of the trip included astronaut simulators and a virtual tour into space, where the group from Howitt were sent on a mission to save the International Space Station. Ms. Calabro and Ms. Devine also received content and lesson plans from NASA to incorporate into their science curricula and build students' interest in STEM activities and career paths.



FHS Senior Named National Merit Semi-Finalist—Among Top One Percent Nationwide

More than 1.5 million students in over 22,000 high schools across the United States entered the 61st Annual 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. Less than one percent—under 15,000—of those who enter become semifinalists. That pool includes Farmingdale High School senior Suraj Muralidharan, pictured at left with Maureen Moloughney, Farmingdale Director of Guidance and Social Work and Glen Zakian, Principal of Farmingdale High School. Suraj's incredible achievement does the entire District proud.

Students qualified for the program by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Suraj's academic record, participation in school and community activities, and honors and awards received will now be assessed as he moves on in the National Merit Scholarship Program competition process.

National Hispanic Scholars at FHS

The College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) is an academic honor that identifies academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students. The Farmingdale School District is extremely proud to have two such students this year—Samantha Kramer and Diana Wilson—both of whom placed in the top 2.5 percent of Hispanic and Latino PSAT/NMSQT takers in the region. Congratulations to Samantha and Diana!

Every year, the NHRP recognizes approximately 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT. Students qualify for this recognition by taking the PSAT in the fall of their junior year of high school, achieving a high score on the exam and earning a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year.



Long-time Farmingdale Coach Bob Hartranft Inducted into National Lacrosse Hall of Fame

Bob Hartranft, head coach of FHS' lacrosse team, has been inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in recognition of his long career as a truly great coach. Still active, he recently completed his 48th season as head coach! Through the 2015 season, Hartranft has 694 wins, ranking third all-time among boys' high school coaches. Coach Hartranft led Farmingdale to the New York State championship in 2011, and also finished as state runner-up in 1978 and 2003. His teams have captured 13 Nassau County championships and made 37 consecutive playoff appearances. He has been selected as the conference coach of the year 10 times and tabbed as the Nassau County coach of the year twice. In addition, Coach Hartranft served as head coach of the U.S. Men's Under-19 National Team in 1992 and led Team USA to the world championship. He was also named winner of the US Lacrosse Gerry Carroll Award as the national coach of the year in 2013. Congratulations Bob Hartranft! Your enshrinement is truly well deserved.

What's Happening in Our Schools

Albany Avenue Elementary School

Students at **Albany Avenue Elementary School** recently explored diverse regions of the world—and they never had to leave the classroom! Using Google's new Educational Expeditions App, classrooms of virtual explorers took immersive virtual tours of fascinating habitats such as the desert, coral reefs, oceans and rainforests. Google Expeditions is a collection of virtual reality panoramas that augments traditional classroom instruction.

Expeditions are annotated with details, highlights and questions curated by the American Museum of Natural History, the Planetary Society and other institutions. Albany Avenue was selected as the only school on Long Island to participate in the program and use the exclusive Google program.



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

The children at **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** used their talents to brighten the holiday spirit in the Farmingdale community recently when they performed at Stew Leonard's store during the store's first-ever Christmas tree lighting. More than 75 members of Woodward Parkway's Junior Chorus delighted parents and community members alike as they sang festive songs in front of the 20-foot, live Norway spruce. Of course, no Christmastime celebration is complete without a visit from Jolly Old Saint Nick—Santa himself showed up to greet families and small children, as well as hand out delicious candy canes. The event was a continuation of the partnership of giving between Woodward Parkway and Stew Leonard's store; this fall, Woodward Parkway students received 25 donated turkeys from Stew Leonard's store as part of the school's recent "Week of Thanks."



Northside Elementary School

The **Northside Elementary School** community recently donated and delivered over twelve Thanksgiving baskets—which each included a full holiday meal—for Farmingdale families in need. From November 16th through the 20th, Northside participated in a "Week of Thanks," during which, students expressed what they were thankful for as they collected donations for their classroom crates. Every class

was designated a different non-perishable food item to donate. The Northside custodial staff collected all non-perishables from the classrooms. Approximately forty crates were gathered and a workshop was opened to wrap and assemble baskets. Each basket was adorned with a Target gift card in order to purchase a turkey and was decorated like a present. Well done, Northside community, for finding the true meaning of the holiday!



Howitt Middle School

Farmingdale Schools puts a strong emphasis on STEM-based programs and instruction. To illustrate exactly why STEM is so important, **Howitt Middle School** recently welcomed representatives from PSE&G to give eighth grade students an interactive lesson on interviewing for STEM jobs. PSE&G representatives held individual mock interviews for all eighth grade students. Following each interview, the PSE&G team provided feedback and advice to help students when it comes time to interview for the real thing. All 200 eighth graders came to school dressed in business attire and were equipped with resumes and presentation materials to present themselves professionally and effectively during the mock interviews.



Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

Over the holiday season, students and teachers at **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** took time out to enjoy a relaxing and fun night of music and reading. It was all part of the school's second annual Barnes and Noble Night, held in Massapequa. Teachers read aloud stories from some beloved books, while

SEM's Senior Orchestra, under the direction of Ms. Felker, provided a musical backdrop to the festivities with performances of several beautiful pieces. Planned through SEM's Character Education Committee, Barnes and Noble Night was a night full of reading and fun had by all!



Farmingdale High School

When you look at **Farmingdale High School** junior Julia Ferrugio's courageous and mesmerizing artwork *Machine*, it dares you to "separate yourself from the machine," to unplug from technology and experience the world with your own eyes. It's a compelling piece, and the judges at the 2015 Embracing Our Differences competition agreed; they chose Julie's work as one of the 27 winning pieces out of

more than 200 submissions. *Machine* was displayed at an outdoor exhibit at South Ocean Middle School in Patchogue in late October and early November.

Sponsored by the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding, Inc., Embracing Our Differences is a nonprofit organization that "uses the power of art and education to expand consciousness and open the heart to celebrate the diversity of the human family."



MUSIC AND FINE ARTS NEWS

The Holiday Spirit is Alive and Well at Farmingdale High School!

The Farmingdale High School Marching Band, under the direction of Gina Pelletiere and Barbara Leiberman, and the Dalerettes, under the direction of Jessica Bayer and Lauren Scotti, got in the holiday spirit late last year by participating in the annual Chamber of Commerce Parade. With 240 students in the marching band, kickline and flag team, FHS truly heralded the holiday season. As has become a Farmingdale tradition, the Band and Dalerettes performed in front of “Review Stands” at the Clock Tower and the CVS Pharmacy. The crowd was delighted with the entertainment, while students—and, of course, Santa—had a wonderful time.



Dalerettes performed on Main Street in a similar style to the famous Rockettes of the Thanksgiving Day Parade.



The band decked the halls—and the instruments—making everything festive.



Even Santa Claus joined the Farmingdale Marching Band!

Fashion Institute Visits Farmingdale High School

Recently, Farmingdale High School art teacher Cara Palermo arranged for a visit from Jodie Cohen of the prestigious Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM). Ms. Cohen enlightened Farmingdale students about the diverse careers in the arts field and the various programs offered at FIDM.

Ms. Cohen met with fashion classes at the high school, discussing careers in the fashion industry such as production management, product development, marketing, graphic design, digital media marketing, visual merchandising and social media marketing. She also detailed retail-based careers, including buying, planning and allocating for stores. In the Studio Art classes, Ms. Cohen presented an exciting and interactive workshop titled *Discovering Your Creative Abilities*. Through this workshop, students took an inspiring journey through the creative process by examining the interplay between left-brain and right-brain thinking through exercises in drawing, visualization, analogy and brainstorming. Ms. Cohen’s visit represented an important component to the arts education at Farmingdale: It demonstrated the vital, expansive opportunities for those students who wish to pursue a career in the arts. Thank you Jodie Cohen for taking your time to meet with our students!

FIDM is a specialized, private college for the Fashion, Graphics, Interior Design, and Entertainment Industries. The FIDM goal is to create an educational environment that fuses student desires with career realities.



FROM THE SPORTS DESK

For 19 Consecutive Seasons, Dalers Excel on the Field AND in the Classroom

The Farmingdale High School Athletic Department is proud to announce that ALL varsity fall teams achieved scholar-athlete team status, the 19th consecutive season the student athletes earned this honor. Scholar-athlete status is awarded to varsity sports teams in New York that have a cumulative team GPA of 90 or above. See below for a detailed breakdown of our scholar-athlete teams. Congratulations to our talented—and gifted—student athletes.

TEAM	# OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING	TEAM AVERAGE	TEAM	# OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING	TEAM AVERAGE
Football	58	92.66	Girls Volleyball	16	95.48
Boys Soccer	31	90.30	Boys Volleyball	15	94.23
Girls Soccer	24	94.71	Golf	12	90.84
Girls Cross Country	24	95.56	Cheerleading	26	91.96
Boys Cross Country	29	95.34	Dalerettes	39	96.41
Girls Tennis	14	91.81	Steppin’ Dalers	14	90.24
Girls Swim	32	95.33			