



Our Schools

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT | WINTER 2018 | FARMINGDALESCHOOLS.ORG

Grammy Winner Tim Kubart Returns to Farmingdale

Grammy Award-winning kids' musician and performer—and Farmingdale Wall of Fame Honoree—Tim Kubart returned to Woodward Parkway Elementary School to record background vocal tracks for his upcoming album, *Building Blocks*. Under the direction of music teacher Stephanie Haas, the third-grade chorus sang lyrics from Tim's new song, "We are Growing."

"Tim is a Pied Piper when it comes to children's music, and they absolutely adored working with him!" said Mrs. Haas. "It's really thrilling to think we contributed to an album that will be enjoyed by families across the country!"



A graduate of the Farmingdale High School Class of 2004, Tim spent four years as the host/writer/producer of *Sunny Side Up* on NBCUniversal's Sprout Channel. In 2015, he won the Grammy Award for Best Children's Album (*Home*). Currently, he's a cast member in Postmodern Jukebox, and writes songs for *Sesame Street*. His first children's book, *Oopsie-Do*, is slated to hit bookstores in May 2018. Tim has very happy memories from his years at Woodward Elementary, and once *Building Blocks* is released, he plans to return and perform a big concert for all the students.

TWO OF FARMINGDALE'S VERY BEST EDUCATORS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

In any school district across the country you'll find a number of unsung heroes, and Farmingdale School District is certainly no different. Dr. William Brennan, our Director for Innovation and Communication, has won the prestigious Making IT Happen award and Dr. Samuel Thompson, Farmingdale High School Principal, has received the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award. "We are incredibly proud of Dr. Brennan and Dr. Thompson for their recent, well-deserved recognition. It is a testament to their great work," said John Lorentz, Farmingdale School District Superintendent.



Dr. Samuel Thompson



Dr. William Brennan

Congratulations to the 2018 Wall of Fame Honorees!

The community is invited to the induction ceremony
on Monday, April 30, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

GEORGE ANDRIOPOULOS Class of 1997

George Andriopoulos is a business executive who founded Launchpad Five One Six Business Consulting Group, located in Farmingdale Village. He is also the co-founder of Media Convergence—a creative marketing agency, the owner of Rudey Greetings—an emerging e-commerce greeting card publishing company, and Media Convergence—a creative think-tank media/marketing company. Mr. Andriopoulos has an impressive list of recognitions that include: the *Long Island Business News*' 40 Under 40-Class of 2016, Top CEO Award 2016, NY Business Awards Hall of Fame 2016, NY Business Awards Best Business Consultant 2015 and 2016, Kings of Long Island Award 2017, Most Innovative Business Consultancy Firm 2017, Excellence in Communication Award 2016, Best of Long Island 2015, and the Founders Award 2013. In addition to his business accolades, he is the founder, inaugural president, and current vice president of Shannon's Fight, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families in medical crisis. Mr. Andriopoulos has held director positions on multiple chambers of commerce, is a volunteer Farmingdale PAL

basketball coach, and has been a guest speaker and judge for the Farmingdale Chapter of DECA. He has two children currently attending Woodward Parkway Elementary School. With a long list of professional accomplishments, and a history of community and charity stewardship, George Andriopoulos serves as an excellent role model for Farmingdale students.

WALTER BREM Class of 1955

For three decades, Walter Brem was a beloved physical education teacher at Farmingdale High School. He was instrumental in starting the winter track program, served as JV football coach for nineteen years, and JV soccer coach for ten years. Since 1992, Mr. Brem has been a USATF Certified Track and Field Official, and this December he'll be on hand to host the *12th Annual Walt Brem Track and Field Event Series* at the high school. In 2006, he was the recipient of the National Scholastic Athletics Foundation's Allen Dawson Award—given for his contributions to track and field. Mr. Brem is currently the director of the Farmingdale Winter Recreation Program, and for over thirty years, has been involved in the SEPTA Splash Program, the Special Olympics, and

the Farmingdale Youth Council. He is a graduate of both SUNY Brockport and Stony Brook University. Walter Brem is a stalwart of the Farmingdale community, and the Committee is proud to induct him into the Wall of Fame.

Victor Nelson Class of 1942

A decorated WWII veteran, Victor Nelson was awarded several Medals of Honor during his service in the US Navy. He graduated from Purdue University, and founded Sector Microwave Industries in Deer Park, where he is currently the company president. Sector Microwave Industries holds 18 patents, and has been recognized by NASA for its help with space exploration. The company has also been praised by the Department of Defense for helping to save American lives with its satellite technology. Mr. Nelson supports many charities, including Long Island Lutheran High School, and St. Luke's Church in Dix Hills. He has 8 children, 26 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren—with more on the way. Based on his long and successful career—and selfless sacrifices for our country—Victor Nelson will make a tremendous addition to our Hall of Fame.

Farmingdale Student-Athletes Sign Their Letters of Intent

Fourteen of Farmingdale's most accomplished student-athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Please join the District in congratulating these students!



What's Happening in Our Schools

Online Mathematics Software Offers Engaging Opportunity for Learning and Teaching Math

Albany Avenue Elementary School students began working with a digital platform called Dreambox, an online mathematics learning tool. Dreambox measures each student's mathematical strengths and weaknesses, adapts lessons to meet their needs, and enables them to learn at their own pace. Using real-time feedback, it also provides teachers with the opportunity to differentiate lessons for the entire class. This was part of the District's initiative to use technology to enhance learning at all levels, help students reach their full potential, and prepare them for future challenges.



Students Use Multiple Applications to Research Animals

During a recent science lesson, students in Ms. Leff's fourth grade class at **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** studied the physical and behavioral traits of animals—and learned how these traits are essential for survival in natural habitats. Following their research, students presented findings using different multimedia apps such as Google Slides and Google Drawings. They also utilized an app called Chatterpix, which used the voice of their animals to create a narrative nonfiction video. They were able to share these videos with their friends and families using an app called FlipGrid.



Can You Use it in a Sentence?

Northside Elementary School recently hosted its first-ever spelling bee. Students from the fourth and fifth grade classes competed against each other for the title of Northside Elementary School Spelling Champion. To prepare for the competition, children studied the etymological and historical roots of common words in the English language, and practiced spelling out loud in front of their classmates. The 2018 winner was [redacted] from Mrs. Christine Braddick's fourth grade class. Students really enjoyed participating in the spelling bee, and the school has decided to make it an annual event.



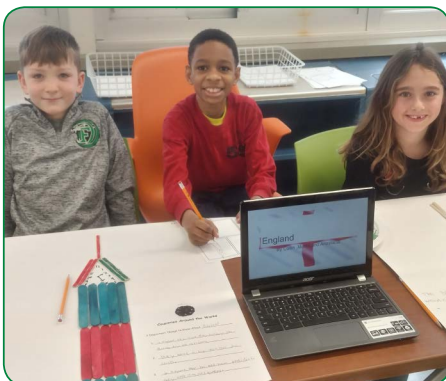
Weldon E. Howitt Middle School Utilizes QR Code Technology to Provide Updates

Howitt Middle School recently launched a new system to keep students up-to-date on the school's "Stay After" programs. Assistant Principal Cheryl DePiero created a unique QR (Quick Response) code and posted it on laminated flyers throughout the school. Students scan the QR code with their phones and are linked directly to Howitt's after-school offerings. The document provides students with a fast, convenient way to access the most current schedules for after-school clubs, athletics, peer assistance, mini-workshops, and Student Leader Spark Sessions. The administration plans to explore other ways to use QR codes to communicate news and updates to parents and students.



Third Graders Take Trip Around the World!

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School students participated in a group project to research different countries around the globe. The students created Google Slide presentations about each nation that included facts about food, sports, and other aspects of the culture. Afterwards,



they compared their findings to life in the United States, and were fascinated by the cultural differences they discovered. They also created handiwork to represent each country, including flags, decorative masks, and costumes.

FHS Girls' Lacrosse Surprise Four-Year-Old Battling Brain Cancer

A young fan of the **Farmingdale High School** girls' lacrosse team met her heroes when the Dalers paid her a surprise visit on her birthday. The team sang happy birthday to Farmingdale local [redacted], a four-year-old presently undergoing treatment for brain cancer. Bella, an avid fan of the team, was all smiles as they showered her with birthday presents. She has been named an honorary member of the team. Farmingdale High School aims to educate its student athletes that the success of a team goes beyond winning on the field. Giving back to the community molds our students into role models who can be leaders in the real-world.





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Music and Fine Arts News

FARMINGDALE STUDENTS SHINE AT THE 2018 ALL-COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL

One hundred sixteen music students from the Farmingdale School District performed at this year’s All-County Music Festival. Held every year at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, it features students from all over Nassau County. To be considered for participation, students must perform at the NYSSMA Adjudication Festival and be nominated by their music teachers. A committee of Nassau County music educators then make the final selection of which students will perform in the various groups. There are five divisions—broken down by grade level—in the categories of Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Vocal Jazz, and Jazz Band. Congratulations to our talented students!



FARMINGDALE TRANSFORMS INTO CARDBOARD ARCADE

Last December, over 100 fifth-grade students at Albany Avenue Elementary School transformed their gym into an elaborate and colorful cardboard arcade. This was the second year for the event, and a day of absolute fun for the entire school.



The Grade 5 Genius Arcade was originally inspired by a YouTube video called Caine’s Arcade. The video starred a nine-year-old Los Angeles boy named Caine Monroy who spent his entire 2012 summer vacation dreaming and building an intricate DIY arcade using cardboard boxes from his dad’s auto parts store. The video went

viral, inspiring a scholarship fund and the creation of a non-profit: imagination.org.

Albany Avenue fifth graders were assigned the project in September, giving them four months to create the arcade. Becky Camera, one of the fifth-grade teachers who oversaw the project, said, “The kids really rose to the occasion, exceeding every expectation.” Students collected their own cardboard, and worked together in small groups to create approximately 11 games per classroom.

Fifth-grade teacher Kevin Schwab, who kick-started the arcade after seeing the video, said the project is aligned with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), and the creation process is modeled after “Genius Hour,” the Google inspired initiative that encourages creativity and allows students the time to explore their own passions. Each grade received a time slot to visit the arcade and was given a fun pass to play five games. The fifth graders were on hand to teach the younger students how each game was played—and quite possibly inspired the fourth graders to think even bigger next year! To watch the video that inspired it all, visit www.cainesarcade.com.