

Harborfields Highlights

500 STUDENTS UNITED FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

Harborfields HS Hosts First "Compassion Without Borders" Leadership Summit

Harborfields High School hosted the first annual "Compassion Without Borders" leadership summit this fall. Sponsored by the Suffolk County High School Principals Association (SCHSPA), student representatives from every high school in Suffolk County gathered to take part in this unique conference, geared at breaking down geographic borders between the schools and uniting the students to work toward one common cause.

For this first summit, organized by Edward Casswell, president of SCHSPA and principal of Mount Sinai High School, and Dr. David Bennardo, principal of Harborfields High School, high school leaders declared the group's first mission: to raise money for Dylan Thompson, a sophomore at Harborfields High School who suffers from Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Dylan's condition confines him to a wheelchair and presents him with a myriad of health-related issues. Dylan's home is in need of improvements and is not wheelchair accessible.

At the Compassion Without Borders summit, each high school pledged to raise \$1,000 for Dylan's cause over the course of the school year. Through this collaborative effort, more than \$50,000 will be raised to help upgrade Dylan's home and make it wheelchair accessible.

Mr. Frank Carasiti, Superintendent of Schools for the Harborfields Central School District, shared his thoughts with students in attendance. He said, "My own grandson suffers from muscular dystrophy, so I am especially touched to see that so many students are willing to give up their time and work together towards this great cause."

Dr. Bennardo added, "Each of you in this room has been tapped on the shoulder by greatness – you are the best of the best from our high schools. Our best hope in fixing our nation's problems rests in your hands. This first mission of working together will allow us to lessen the burden on Dylan's life."



Student leaders at Harborfields High School pose with Dylan Thompson at the first annual Compassion Without Borders summit.

COMMENDED STUDENTS

Six seniors from Harborfields High School were recently notified of their selection as Commended Students in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise, as demonstrated on their Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Out of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the nationwide competition, only the top 5% are named Commended Students. "Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation," commented a spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Each student received a Letter of Commendation acknowledging this fine accomplishment.



The Commended Students are pictured here with High School Principal Dr. David Bennardo: (L-R) Allison Abbott, Jonathan Ostrander, Katherine McLennan, Noah Kanro, Lucy Seery and Kathryn Easop.

IMPORTANT DATES: Community Budget Workshops

With the budget development process upon us, we would like to invite all residents to participate in our upcoming budget workshops. Please note the dates below on your calendars and join us during this important process. Your thoughts and feedback are valuable to the success of our district.

We urge everyone to take advantage of these workshops.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Budget Work Session @ OMS 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Overview of the Proposed 2010-2011 Budget @ OMS 7:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Budget Hearing & Board of Education Meeting @ OMS 7:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Annual District Board Election & Budget Vote @ OMS 3:00 – 10:00 p.m.

RETURN ADDRESS:

Harborfields Central School District
2 Oldfield Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740-1200

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
CENTERPORT, NY
PERMIT No. 99

PLEASE NOTE, CALENDAR CHANGE

Since one snow day has been used, school will be open on Tuesday, June 1.

A Message from Frank J. Carasiti

Superintendent of Schools

Dear Residents,

Now that the holidays are behind us, we have a further opportunity to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of our students and all those people who are part of the Harborfields family.

As you will see when you read through this newsletter, our students continue to make us proud not only with their accomplishments, but also with their thoughtfulness for others. Through their efforts and the efforts of caring and concerned community members, the district has been able to help over 100 Harborfields families who were in need of assistance during the holidays. This assistance continues on a monthly basis thanks to the generosity of our students, our staff and residents, who contribute their time and their efforts with an open heart. It is gratifying to be associated with a community so full of selflessness.

Unfortunately, I have to temper the good feelings and

accomplishments mentioned above with the reality of preparing the 2010-2011 school budget. We all want to provide the very best for our students. The current economic climate and financial deficit that New York State faces will limit our ability to do that. It may be impossible to balance what we would prefer to do educationally with a cost that would be sustainable.

As we move through the budget cycle, I would encourage all parties to remain up to date on the progress of the budget by attending Board meetings and visiting the district website.

Suffice to say, some difficult decisions may have to be made during the course of our deliberations.

Very truly yours,

Frank J. Carasiti
Superintendent of Schools

Harborfields Ranked 6th on SAT Performance

According to the latest available Suffolk County SAT scores offered through DemocratAndChronicle.com, Harborfields High School has been ranked 6th out of 59 high schools in Suffolk County for the students' composite SAT scores. This composite score is calculated by adding the math, reading and writing sections together in comparison to other Suffolk County schools. **Furthermore, Harborfields falls within the top 10 districts in the county on each of the individual reading, writing and math sections.** "These results reflect wonderfully upon the outstanding parents and teachers who mentor our Harborfields students," Principal Dr. David Bennardo said of the accomplishment.

17 Students Selected to Participate in the 2010 (LISFA) Honors Groups

The Harborfields Music Department is proud to announce the selection of 17 outstanding student musicians to perform in the 2010 Long Island String Festival Association of Suffolk County. Harborfields students will perform in the honors string orchestra concerts to be presented in January 2010 and represent the most talented public school string players in the county, selected from a pool of hundreds of outstanding students recommended each fall. Selection to LISFA is based upon a student's superior solo adjudication score at the annual NYSSMA spring solo festival and the student's strong recommendation and ranking from the student's orchestra director. The Harborfields 2010 LISFA selections are:

THOMAS J. LAHEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(Christopher Lippe - Orchestra Director)

Emmanuel Berbari, *Double Bass*

Ava McKane, *Viola*

Donovan Snyder, *Viola*

Cole Wadler, *Violin*



TJL students selected to LISFA: Donovan Snyder, Emmanuel Berbari, Ava McKane and Cole Wadler.

OLDFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Alan Walter - Orchestra Director)

Alisa Chang, *Viola*

Evan Chang, *Violin*

Nora Gleeson, *Violin*

Grace Interrante, *Cello*

Stephanie Larkin, *Viola*

Genevieve McLoughlin, *Violin*

Kathleen Shea, *Cello*



OMS students selected to LISFA: Kathleen Shea, Grace Interrante, Evan Chang, Nora Gleeson, Stephanie Larkin, Genevieve McLoughlin and Dylan Wadler. Alisa Chang is absent from the photo.

HARBORFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

(Alan Walter - Orchestra Director)

Eric Hochwald, *Cello*

Mi-Kyung Kim, *Violin*

Young Sung (James) Kim, *Violin*

Caitlin Lyons, *Viola*

Brian Meagher, *Double Bass*

Aria Wiseblatt, *Violin*



LISFA participants from the High School, with Director Alan Walter: Young Sung Kim, Eric Hochwald, Aria Wiseblatt, Caitlin Lyons and Mi-Kyung Kim. Absent from the photo is Brian Meagher.

Congratulations to the 2010 LISFA-selected students, Mr. Lippe, Mr. Walter, and to the parents and Harborfields community for your continued support of the district's outstanding string program!

A Cultural Celebration



Grandma Nordin and her granddaughter, second-grade student Victoria.

As part of the second-grade social studies curriculum, students in Mr. Coppola's class at Washington Drive Primary School have been celebrating culture through interaction with various guests. Every few weeks the children are visited by a relative with a different cultural background. To date, they have enjoyed insight into the following ethnicities: Croatian, German, French and Indian. In preparation for these visits, the class studies the country of origin, as well as facts about the culture.

During December, Mr. Coppola's class welcomed Victoria Kilkee's grandmother, Leonie Nordin, who is originally from Ireland. Affectionately referred to by the students as 'Grandma Nordin,' she shared photos and stories with the class of her years growing up in Ireland and her transition into America society as a 17-year-old. She described the country's location and traditions, as well as where she grew up and the cultural aspects of life in Ireland. Students asked questions of Grandma Nordin and had the opportunity to sample Irish soda bread, which Grandma brought especially for the class.

These visits offer second-grade students firsthand exposure to various cultures and traditions. It also reinforces the principles of respect and tolerance.



OMS CELEBRATES National Teen Read Week

October 18-24 marked National Teen Read Week, as designated by the Young Adult Library Services Association. Students at Oldfield Middle School celebrated the week with numerous library-related games and activities. The theme of this year's Teen Read Week was "Read Beyond Reality," which encouraged students to read from genres such as science fiction, fantasy and horror.



Library teaching assistants (L-R) Sarah Zagaja, Jean Amodeo, and Debbie Berghela with librarian Susan McHugh dressed in their costumes.

In celebration of Teen Read Week, members of the National Junior Honor Society dressed up as storybook characters and spoke in homerooms about reading. In the spirit of "changing the reality of someone," the NJHS also held a book donation drive to benefit teens through the Huntington Family Service League. The library played fantasy music all week to encourage the selection of fantasy books. The week culminated with students dressing as their favorite character from a book they read.



Seventh-grade students dressed as such characters as Peter Pan and fairies.

STUDENTS PROMOTE THE Great American Smokeout

November 19 is designated by the American Cancer Society as a day for Americans to challenge themselves to quit smoking and to make people aware of the tools available to help them quit. This day, called The Great American Smokeout, is celebrated each year across the nation. Students throughout the district honored the day with various meaningful activities organized by the district's Health and Welfare Committee.

This year, Thomas J. Lahey students wrote letters to Middle and High School students reminding them of the dangers of tobacco use. The letters were displayed on bulletin boards, as well as placed inside of a basket in the nurse's office at both OMS and at the High School for students to read. In addition, students at TJL welcomed High School students with lollipops and stickers as they exited their buses. The TJL volunteers who made the trip asked High School students to wear the stickers in support of The Great American Smokeout and to have a lollipop that day, instead of a cigarette. For those who didn't smoke, they were asked to pass the lollipop on to a family member who could use it instead.



Pictured is the display of letters which TJL students wrote to High School buddies.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

When the district's schools are to be closed or when opening is delayed due to inclement weather or any other emergency, announcements will be made on the following:

website: www.harborfieldscsd.net

WHLI - 1100 AM
WKJY - 98.3 FM
WMJC - 94.3 FM
WBZO - 103.1 FM

WALK - 1370 AM & 97.5 FM
WBLI - 106.1 FM
WOR - 710 AM
News 12 Long Island - Channel 12

Information concerning emergencies of any kind (including school closings) can be found by calling the School District Hotline at 754-6700. In addition, parents and staff will receive a telephone call through the new Connect-ED system, alerting them of any closings or delays.

The Board of Education reserves the right to delay the opening of school or to close schools at any time due to inclement weather or a failure in the power and/or heating systems of the schools. If such a decision is made, a public announcement will be made a minimum of one hour before closing. It is the responsibility of the parents to arrange for children to be received at home any time of the school day if early dismissal is necessary.

GIVING THANKS BY GIVING TO OTHERS

Second-grade students in Ms. Derby's class at Washington Drive Primary School participated in an act to truly give thanks for. After completing a "Tree of Thanks" indicating what each child was thankful for in their life, each student prepared a sandwich and lunch bag for someone in need at the Family Service League. The event was organized by class mother Liza Berlent, who felt it was important for the children to be part of a giving activity this holiday season.



Pictured is Ms. Derby's class creating the lunch bags for donation.

Each student designed a brown paper lunch bag, illustrating scenes for the fall season and Thanksgiving holiday. With the help of their class mothers, each child packed the lunch bag with a turkey sandwich, granola bar, piece of fruit and a bag of chips. The lunch bags were donated to the Family Service League's Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative, which is an overnight housing program to help individuals in need, including those in need of a meal.



In True Harborfields Spirit

Joseph Corrado, an eighth-grade student at Oldfield Middle School, was recently selected as the recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. This prestigious honor is awarded to a student who has demonstrated leadership and a commitment to helping those in need. Each year, Oldfield Middle School sends a representative of the school to participate in this nationwide competition.

Joe has made a commitment to dedicate his time to photographing charity events at OMS, raising money for the hungry, and working on service projects with the Boy Scouts. He will now qualify for state recognition and is eligible for entry into the national competition. The top middle and high school candidates in each state will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and a four-day trip to Washington, DC.



(L-R) Guidance counselor Dahlia Roemer, Prudential Spirit of Community Award winner Joseph Corrado, guidance counselor Anita Nigro and guidance counselor Jenn McCaffrey.

COMMUNITY UNITES TO RAISE MONEY FOR DYLAN

On Friday, December 4, the entire Harborfields community joined together for the HHS PTSA and Barnes & Noble Book Fair. This is the second year that this event has been held, and the proceeds of this year's book fair went to the Harborfields High School Library and Dylan's Footprint. Through the efforts of all those who helped and supported us by shopping at Barnes & Noble that evening, we were able to raise approximately \$3,000!

Throughout the afternoon and evening we were regaled with performances from members of our Harborfields community, ranging from pre-school dancers and high school chamber ensemble members to seasoned veteran singers. Ms. Allison Kraham, one of our TJL fifth grade teachers, graciously brought her guitar into the store to sing and read to some of the children. In addition, Howie Lyons, local celebrity of the TJL security staff, donned a conductor's cap and vest and read *The Polar Express* to an enthralled audience.

Many high school students volunteered throughout the event, as well as parents who signed up to help by giftwrapping, selling raffle tickets, pouring coffees and generally creating goodwill in the store. The event was truly a memorable day for all who were able to attend.

Don't forget to save the date for next year's book fair fundraiser on December 3rd, 2010. The HHS PTSA offers their sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time for this event.

Congratulations, Board Member JOSEPH TOLES Named Man of the Year in Education



In the December 24 edition of *The Times of Huntington*, Harborfields Board member Joseph Toles was named the paper's Man of the Year in Education. Mr. Toles was selected for his continued effort to enhance the lives and education of our youth. He serves not only as a Board member, but is the track coach for Half Hollow Hills, the district in which he works as head guidance counselor at Candlewood Middle School. In addition, for the past five years Mr. Toles has run Camp Resilience, a summer program for foster children. The complete article detailing his accomplishments is available through the newspaper's website: www.northshoreoflongisland.com.

Community Outreach Expands

HARBORFIELDS ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH HELPS 120 FAMILIES

The Outreach Program, run by resident, parent and Board of Education member Maggie Boba, has now officially been classified as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization under the name of Harborfields Alliance for Community Outreach (HACO). The Outreach Program was established by Harborfields' alumni to ensure that all students and community members receive life's necessities without worry. Under this new classification, the program is able to accept monetary donations, request the use of district facilities, and expand the services it can offer.

Whereas the Outreach Program assisted 60 families during the holiday season, HACO has been able to double that number, aiding more than 120 families

and what it means to be a volunteer.

"I think it's a great thing for the community," says Outreach Club volunteer Ariel Bennett, who also volunteers her time at the Huntington Youth Bureau.

"The enthusiasm and work ethic of these kids is remarkable," Ms. Boba states of the group. "They do so much more than I could do last year with my friends. It's second nature to all of them [to help out], which makes them quite a generation." What makes HACO so unique as a not-for-profit is the transportation factor. "If people could get to a food pantry, they would. But most can't because the pantry is only open certain hours and some don't have a car to

get themselves there," Ms. Boba says of the system. "By bringing it directly to the people like we do, it makes the system easier." Each month, members of the HACO executive board and directors gather to personally transport the food to the growing list of families in need throughout the Harborfields community.

Thanks to the support of the community, HACO has received an incredible amount of food and toiletry donations, as well as monetary donations and gift cards. Each of the items directly benefits a family in need and the money is used to either purchase gift cards for the families, or to purchase food for their benefit. For the holiday, each of the over 100 families received a bag filled with approximately 50 food items, toys, gift cards to area supermarkets, some toiletries and a turkey. "Becoming a 501(c)(3) opened the floodgates," said Co-Vice President Mike Woodhouse, "and people really wanted to help."

In addition to the food pantry, HACO has also established a Basketball Open Gym Night on select Friday nights in the south gym of Harborfields High School. The idea came to fruition since there is



only one basketball court in Greenlawn that is free of charge to use, and it is too small to host a game. During the Basketball Open Gym Nights, students can gather and play several friendly games with their peers. Basketball Open Gym Night will continue to run from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the High School on each of the following nights: February 5 & 26, March 12 & 26, April 9 & 23, May 7 & 21 and June 4 & 11. All interested eighth through twelfth graders are invited to attend any of these sessions. Registration is not required.

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of the HACO programs can contact Maggie Boba for information.



this year, not just for the holiday season, but on a monthly basis. This has largely been due to the fact that the organization can now accept monetary donations in addition to the overwhelming support that each of the schools has demonstrated in hosting fundraisers and drives to support the cause. Oldfield Middle School and Thomas J. Lahey Elementary have been hosting food drives on a regular basis, and Washington Drive Primary hosted a toy drive for the holiday season. As a branch of the organization, the High School has formed an Outreach Club, for which students gather each week to organize and bag food for HACO in a small pantry at the high school. Founding President Maggie Boba makes sure to start each gathering with a relevant lesson on such topics as empathy

22 INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY

6 return, 8 future members identified for prestigious creative group

The Harborfields High School (HHS) chapter of the National Art Honor Society, the honor society for secondary school art students, is pleased to announce the induction of six continuing members, 22 new members, and eight future members (pictured) at its annual induction ceremony held in November.

Congratulations to the new NAHS inductees: Deanna Bennett, Kathryn Easop, Gabrielle Elia, Jeremy Endo, Caroline Golub, Alex Gurley, Maria Higueros, Carly Klaire, Sydney Luethi, Erin Marynowski, Jillian Muldowney, Mallory Peragine, Genesis Ramirez, Josh Reller, Morgan Schlaugies, Dan Shaffer, Stephanie Squire, Allie Stein, Anna Sunberg, Savannah Trifiro, Amanda Vengroff and Kaitlyn Wollman.

The following HHS student artists were recognized as continuing members of the National Art Honor Society: Sam Colamussi, RJ Curth, Sarah Gerhardt, Julia Karant, Alex Pressman and Navah Stein. The eight HHS students introduced as "future" NAHS inductees are: Samantha Amoroso, Emily Capobianco, Molly Gleeson, Alex Harrison, Kaitlyn Kaufman, Gabby Leparik, Katie O'Mara and Melanie Saulle.

Syosset Art Department member Mr. Rich Ritter served as the guest speaker for the evening. He spoke about the experiences that inspired him to

become a photographer and then later, an art educator.

The goal of the National Art Honor Society is to foster greater interest in the visual arts program at HHS and to provide special opportunities for students to express themselves through

art. Students are selected for membership in the honor society on the basis of overall GPA, artistic ability (through submission of a portfolio of work), character, leadership, and service to their school and community. Senior artists have the opportunity to participate in several gallery openings at HHS each year, in addition to a number of juried shows and unique events involving selected student artists from the program.



SCIENCE STARS at OMS

Eighth-grade students at Oldfield Middle School held their annual science fair which highlights student research and allows for their work to be shared with teachers and peers. Listed below are the winners from this year's eighth-grade science fair:

- Life Science Winners – Chrissy Bitetto and Alli Fausner
- Physical Science Winner – Miranda Abbott
- Earth Science Winners – 3rd Place: Jack McLaughlin; 2nd Place: Caroline Semmelmeier and Kristen Johnson; 1st Place: Dylan Wadler
- Overall Winner – Robert Hendler



(Back row, L-R): Robert Hendler, Dylan Wadler, Alli Fausner, Chrissy Bitetto, Jack McLaughlin and Caroline Semmelmeier; (front row, L-R): Kristen Johnson and Miranda Abbott.

Congratulations to all students for a job well done.

TECH STUDENT, VETERINARY TEAM No.1 IN NATION

Alexandra Jackson, an eleventh-grade student at Harborfields High School, achieved the fourth highest score among all competitors in the U.S. at the Big E Small Animal Careers National Competition. A member of the Veterinary Assisting team from Wilson Technological Center, **Alexandra was part of a group that won four of the top five individual places, making them the first-place Veterinary Assisting team in the country.**

The competition required Veterinary Assisting students to demonstrate the skills they had learned caring for a variety of animals in their Tech program. The Tech team had qualified in the spring by winning the NYS Small Animals Contest. Not content to rest on their laurels, the Veterinary Assisting students studied throughout the summer with their Tech instructor.

Tech students participate in several national student organizations that offer leadership, citizenship and character development programs to complement the skills training that they receive in their career and technical programs at Wilson Tech.



Cell Phones for Soldiers

Students in Jill Goldsmith's and Sonia Armstrong's classes at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School hosted a letter-writing project to soldiers in Iraq which evolved into something even greater. Shortly after launching the campaign, the classes learned about Cell Phones for Soldiers, a not-for-profit organization that was started several years ago by a brother and sister team who were 12 and 13 years old. The pair had learned of a soldier in Iraq who was faced with an enormous cell phone bill and they thought it was unfair that soldiers who were fighting overseas had to pay for their phone calls home. The children, Brittany and Robbie Bergquist, thought that there must be many more soldiers with the same burden, and wanted to help. They first donated money out of their own piggy banks, but soon after, encouraged many large businesses to become involved. Today there are more than 3,000 drop-off locations for cell phones nationwide.

Ms. Goldsmith and Mrs. Armstrong read about Cell Phones for Soldiers and decided that collecting discarded cell phones would

be another way their students could be involved in helping others, while showing their appreciation for our troops overseas. The students in their classes loved the idea and began collecting cell phones, which will be shipped to the ReCellular recycling facility to be recycled. For each phone donated, Cell Phones for Soldiers earns money, which they use to purchase phone cards (talking time) for the soldiers. Information about the organization can be found at www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.



Students Go COLD TURKEY



Kindergarten, first and second-grade students at Washington Drive Primary School were asked this fall to take part in the Cold Turkey Program. Hosted by Harborfields Public Library, the program asked students to voluntarily choose to not watch television or play video games for five of seven days. The event kicked off on November 14th and ran through the 21st. The week prior to the event, Mrs. Moisan and Mrs. Hasher from the Harborfields Public Library visited with students to explain the purpose of going cold turkey.

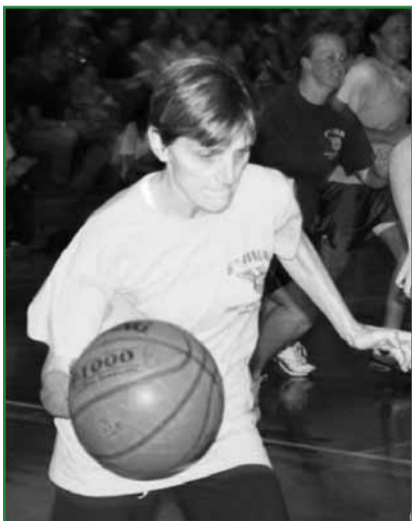
The Cold Turkey Program asked students to sign a contract, agreeing to find alternatives to watching television or playing video games. The idea is to get children to focus on the many other activities they can be engaged in year-round, that are not centered around the television. The librarians challenged students to come up with alternatives and students had many great ideas.

At the conclusion of the week, students who completed the challenge had the opportunity to enter into a contest at the public library and were invited to a special show with their family.

ALTERNATIVES TO TELEVISION

- Reading
- Cooking
- Playing an instrument
- Listening to music
- Dancing
- Playing with dolls
- Arts & Crafts
- Playing a game
- Playing a sport
- Outdoor activities
- Rake leaves
- Play with a friend or sibling

B-Ball for Charity



More than 600 people attended Oldfield Middle School's Gymnasium to see some of Long Island's most enthusiastic teachers from the district compete against each other for a common goal. Together, teachers and staff from Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School and Oldfield Middle School helped raise money by competing against each other in the 6th Annual Charity Basketball Game.

The annual basketball game was started in 2004 by OMS science teacher and student government advisor David Hsiao, with the goal of raising money for a charity that is meaningful to the student body. In years past, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the American Red Cross have been recipients of funds.

Over the first five years, the schools have raised a total exceeding \$13,000. This year, the charity game raised more than \$4,000. As a result, the schools were able to make two donations.

"We will continue to support our District's Outreach program that is aimed to benefit the needy families that reside in our community," said Mr. Hsiao. "We were also able to make a donation to Dylan's Footprint Foundation, a grassroots effort to help Dylan Thompson, a Harborfields High School student, and other families on Long Island who are affected by Duchenne muscular dystrophy (see p. 1). This would have been impossible if it wasn't for the help and generosity of our community."

It's All in the MEDIATION

A new group of peer mediators have been trained for the 2009-10 school year at Oldfield Middle School. In November, 20 seventh and eighth-grade students attended an intensive workshop, which built on their listening and mediating skills and qualified them to mediate minor disputes between their peers. Mediators were chosen by teachers and counselors to participate in this volunteer program based on their decision-making skills, empathy, enthusiasm and maturity.



2009-10 peer mediators (Top row, L-R) advisor Anita Nigro, Priyanka Seth, Kristen Shore, Kiran Magee, Christopher Gallanty, Jack McLaughlin, Douglas Gaffney, Andrew Merhige, and advisor Dahlia Roemer; (Middle row, L-R) Ian Leskody, Katherine Ryan, Kyle Majid, Angelina Ricca, Brianna Barrett, and Shelby Forman; (Bottom row, L-R) Jonathan Haas, Michaelyn Benson, Miranda Abbott, James Kelly, and Christine Clermont. Missing from the photo are advisor Jen McCaffrey and students Ryan Kohl and Helena Ottavino.

The program is offered to all students at Oldfield Middle School as a forum and venue for finding win-win solutions, or for resolving a minor dispute peacefully. The program is one of the school's many resources which address the social and emotional needs of students. It offers many benefits for both the mediators and any disputants.

BENEFITS TO DISPUTANTS

- Students learn nonviolent methods to resolve their conflicts.
- Students learn that they can succeed at resolving conflicts peacefully.
- Students develop the capacity to empathize with others.

BENEFITS TO MEDIATORS

- Mediators learn to listen effectively, summarize accurately and think critically.
- Students develop effective problem-solving, writing and leadership skills.
- Mediators learn political skills, which can be used beyond the classroom.

Peer mediators play an important role in the OMS school community, both



as student role models and ambassadors of peace. Peer mediation sessions can be requested by students, staff or parents. Members will be participating in in-class presentations and assembly programs throughout the year, promoting peaceful conflict resolution and encouraging other students to take advantage of this great program.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 –
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
MID-WINTER RECESS –
SCHOOLS CLOSED

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
BUDGET WORK SESSION
@ OMS 9:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

MONDAY, MARCH 29 –
MONDAY, APRIL 5
SPRING RECESS –
SCHOOLS CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

UPCOMING PARENTS AS PARTNERS WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, March 2
@ HHS 7:30 PM
The Challenging Game of Raising
Teenagers featuring Dr. Bennardo.

Snow date March 11.
Presented by HHS PTSA,
OMS PTA & PAP.

BOARD BRIEFS

In honor of School Board Recognition Week, members of Harborfields' Special Education Parent-Teacher Association (SEPTA) thanked the Board for their support and dedication. Each year, Harborfields' parent organizations rotate who will observe the occasion and since this year



marks SEPTA's 30th anniversary, it was only fitting for them to recognize the Board. At the November 18 Board of Education meeting, SEPTA Co-Presidents Melissa Blich and Chris Mansbart personally thanked the Board for their support of the organization and for the balance they show in addressing the needs of the children, while upholding a fiscal responsibility to taxpayers. Ms. Blich and Ms. Mansbart presented the Board with a special silver platter, coffee and cakes.

During November, Board members attended several conferences and dinners. Board President Donald Mastroianni attended a special dinner event to discuss education issues with other Board of Education presidents and school superintendents, sponsored by the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association. Board member Maggie Boba also attended the New York State School Board Association's most recent conference, which focused on the roles of the School Board.

Kindergarten Registration

All children entering Kindergarten in September 2010 will need to be registered at Washington Drive Primary School any day from February 1 through February 5 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

In order to be registered for kindergarten in the Harborfields Central School District, a child must be five years of age on or before December 1 of the school year for which he or she is being registered. Proof of age must be submitted in the form of an original birth certificate at the time of registration. Students may only be registered if two original proofs of residency are submitted: (1) a mortgage statement, deed, closing statement, current Suffolk County tax bill or signed lease; (2) driver's license or insurance/telephone/LIPA/water/oil bill.

For specific details regarding the registration process, please access the Our District section located within the Harborfields Central School District website, www.harborfieldscsd.net, or contact Washington Drive Primary School at 754-5592.



TRANSPORTATION REQUEST DEADLINE

Requests for transportation for the 2010-2011 school year to private and parochial schools within 15 miles should be received by Kathleen Riker, School Transportation Coordinator, no later than April 1, 2010 or within 30 days of establishing residence in the school district, whichever is later. No transportation services will be provided during 2010-2011 to any private or parochial school if additional costs would be incurred by the school district unless we have received the request for transportation services on or before the state deadline of April 1. The purpose of this deadline is to allow the school district to bid out those services in order to provide them at the lowest possible cost.

Requests for transportation to or from childcare locations will be honored only under the following circumstances:

- The childcare location should be the same location each day of the week. However, we accept requests to transport to childcare locations in accordance with a schedule provided by parents in advance that will be consistent throughout the school year.
- The request for transportation to a childcare location must be received by Kathleen Riker no later than June 18, 2010 so that it can be included in the routing which is done during the summer. The district cannot honor requests for transportation to childcare locations that will incur additional cost, change or delay an existing bus route, or cause overcrowding.

Questions concerning this process should be addressed to Kathleen Riker, School Transportation Coordinator, at 754-5330.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Donald W. Mastroianni, President Nicholas P. Giuliano, Vice President
Michael Banks Maggie Boba
Dr. Thomas McDonagh Gary Schoer Joseph Toles
Frank J. Carasiti, Superintendent of Schools