

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 –
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25
MID-WINTER RECESS –
SCHOOLS CLOSED

SATURDAY, MARCH 5
BUDGET WORK SESSION
@ OMS 9:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

MONDAY, APRIL 18 –
MONDAY, APRIL 25
SPRING RECESS –
SCHOOLS CLOSED

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
@ OMS 7:45 P.M.

UPCOMING PARENTS AS PARTNERS WORKSHOPS

Celebrate Calm: Success Begins Here

**Thursday, March 10th
7:00 pm @ HHS**

**Friday, March 11th
10:00 am @ HHS**

Join us for a humorous, practical workshop with nationally recognized expert, Kirk Martin, who has trained over 100,000 parents. He will offer all attendees ten secrets to a stress-free home!

Since three snow days have been utilized this year, the district calendar will change. At this point, schools will be in session on Friday, May 27 and Tuesday, May 31st.



TRANSPORTATION REQUEST DEADLINE

Requests for transportation for the 2011-2012 school year to private and parochial schools within 15 miles should be received by Kathleen Riker, School Transportation Coordinator, no later than April 1, 2011, or within 30 days of establishing residence in the school district, whichever is later. No transportation services will be provided during 2011-2012 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 24, 2011, 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 (631) 754-5330.

Harborfields High School Welcomes Korean Exchange Students

On January 20, students at Harborfields High School welcomed eight Korean high school exchange students. They greeted their guests with a special welcome reception, during which the Harborfields students presented on a variety of topics. They provided an overview of academics, student leadership, extracurricular activities, and the transition between high school and higher-level education at Harborfields High School.

Following the presentations, the Korean students had many questions for their American peers and noted that the biggest difference between the two cultures was the structure of their school day. In Korea, a typical high school day consists of eight straight hours of academics, with almost no extracurricular activities or sports.

The exchange students then had an opportunity to take part in a chemistry class to see first-hand how an American high school classroom operates. The Harborfields chemistry students welcomed their peers by saying "hello" in Korean.

The Korean students' visit to Harborfields was coordinated through Mahanaim in Huntington and was part of a month-long trip to the United States.



Harborfields High School students welcome the Korean students and provide them with an overview of what a "typical" day at the high school is like.



Publications Coordinator:
Beth Izzo

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The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District



Harborfields Highlights

High School Senior Named Intel Semifinalist

Congratulations to Harborfields High School Senior Pam Wax who was named a Semifinalist in the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search. Pam was one of only 300 students out of 1,744 applicants to be designated as an Intel Semifinalist. Pam's project, entitled "Exploring the Dose-Dependent Activity of the Drosophila Fushi- tarazu (Ftz) Homeodomain Protein" has qualified her to compete for \$1.25 million in awards.

Her project, which she has worked on since the summer before her junior year, focuses on the study of fruit flies which have similar genetic makeup to humans. Pam studied one particular gene of the fruit fly and how that gene affects others; by doing so, she can examine the gene's role in development and what specific defects occur because of that particular gene. Pam notes, "Defects in the ways genes work can lead to diseases. Genes linked to the gene I'm studying have been linked to certain bone, blood, and lymphatic diseases. So, understanding how genes relate to defects in the development of a fly, we can compare them to the human genome."

As an Intel Semifinalist, Pam was awarded \$1,000, in addition to securing an additional \$1,000 grant for Harborfields High School. "I'm so honored to be named a Semifinalist," she said. According to Superintendent Frank Carasiti, "Being named an Intel Semifinalist is an honor reserved for the best and brightest students in the entire country. The district congratulates Pam on this outstanding accomplishment!"



OMS Students Taught Important Anti-Bullying Message

In early December, students at Oldfield Middle School attended a presentation entitled "Ryan's Story," presented by John Halligan. Mr. Halligan lost his son Ryan to suicide seven years ago as a result of ongoing bullying that Ryan had endured for years.

Mr. Halligan began his presentation by introducing Oldfield students to Ryan through an emotional video. Mr. Halligan went on to tell the students about Ryan, the difficulties he faced growing up, and the continual bullying that he faced in school. He addressed his own struggle as a parent during that time, questioning the decisions he made to help his son make the situation better.



Parents as Partners Co-Chairs Carol Grossman and Stephanie Lange, OMS Principal Joanne Giordano, guest speaker John Halligan, and Deputy Superintendent Diana Todaro.

Mr. Halligan said, "There is no greater pain than for a parent to lose a child. Don't ever believe for even a second that you are not loved - you are loved beyond belief. Please don't ever take that for granted."

He continued by telling Oldfield students about the Bullying

Prevention law that he helped introduce in Vermont (where his family resides) and how New York State has a similar law that was recently signed this past summer. "You can always turn a bad situation into something good," Mr. Halligan concluded.

Oldfield Middle School Principal Joanne Giordano added, "This is an important and serious topic. It is now your responsibility to move this message forward in our school and in our community."

Later in the evening, the district's Parents as Partners committee hosted a "Ryan's Story" session for parents. Parents as Partners was established to provide the Harborfields community with comprehensive workshops on relevant and applicable parenting topics.



John Halligan speaks to students at Oldfield Middle School.

Community Input on Budget Needed

As the district begins to prepare the 2011-12 budget, the Board of Education and administration encourage community involvement. Your thoughts and feedback are valuable to the success of our district. Given the set of financial challenges we face for next year, we are open and willing to listen to any ideas the community may have. Please plan on attending a Board of Education meeting or the Budget Work Session to offer your thoughts. The Work Session is planned for Saturday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at Oldfield Middle School.

If you cannot attend or would rather offer your input in a smaller setting, Superintendent of Schools Frank Carasiti has offered to meet with any community resident to discuss the budget. If you are interested in meeting with Mr. Carasiti, please contact him at 754-5320 x321 or email CarasitiF@harborfieldscsd.org.

Thank you for your involvement and interest in the budget process.

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

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A Message from Frank J. Carasiti Superintendent of Schools

Dear Resident:

On January 31, 2011, the New York State Senate passed "property tax relief legislation" (s.2706) that would place a cap on the growth of property taxes at 2% of the prior year's tax levy or 120% of the consumer price index whichever is less. This comprehensive bill was also delivered to the Assembly on January 31, 2011 subject to the Assembly's review, possible amendment, and passage. We are all willing to continue working towards controlling tax increases, but a 2% cap without mandate relief and additional state aid would force districts to make devastating program cuts. Unless a district could achieve a 60% majority of voters for an increase over 2%, we would be forced by law to limit the increase to 2% or less. In essence, 40% becomes the new majority when it comes to school budgets under this proposed law.

A more immediate problem occurred when the Governor announced his budget for 2011-12. His proposal reduces state aid to Harborfields by \$1,565,042. This figure equates to over \$6.00 on our tax rate. We simply cannot sustain substantial state aid reductions, and live within a cap of 2% without seriously impacting educational opportunities for our students now and in the foreseeable future.

We are anxious to hear from you, the public, regarding your thoughts as they relate to the future direction of the Harborfields Central School District prior to the adoption of the 2011-12 school budget on May 17, 2011. In the meantime, please make every effort to attend the following Board of Education meetings so we may receive your input on the budget.

The following important budget informational meetings will be held in the Oldfield Middle School Auditorium:

Board of Education Work Session	Saturday, March 5, 2011	9:00 a.m.
Board of Education Special Budget Workshop	Wednesday, April 6, 2011	7:45 p.m.
Board of Education Special Meeting	Wednesday, April 13, 2011	7:45 p.m.
Board of Education Regular Meeting	Thursday, April 28, 2011	7:45 p.m.
Budget Hearing	Tuesday, May 10, 2011	7:45 p.m.
Budget Vote and Election	Wednesday, May 17, 2011	3:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Please join us as we try our best to ensure a sound educational future for our students under the most difficult of circumstances.

In the meantime, please share your feelings regarding the tax cap and the reductions in state aid to our elected representatives in Albany.

Senator Carl Marcellino: marcelli@senate.state.ny.us
250 Townsend Square
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
Phone: (516) 922-1811

Assemblyman Andrew Raia: raiaa@assembly.state.ny.us
75 Woodbine Avenue
Northport, NY 11768
Phone: (631) 261-4151

Assemblyman James. D. Conte: contej@assembly.state.ny.us
1783 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746
Phone: (631) 271-8025

Very truly yours,



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 (631) 754-6700. In addition, parents and staff will receive a telephone call through the 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.

TJL's Teacher of Excellence

The New York State English Council has named Jane Dayton, a fifth-grade teacher at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, an Educator of Excellence. Ms. Dayton was one of only two elementary teachers honored with this award this year.

Ms. Dayton was nominated for the award by Thomas J. Lahey Principal Florence Tuzzi, who commended the outstanding work Ms. Dayton does in her classroom as an English-Language Arts teacher. In addition, Ms. Dayton was required to assemble a comprehensive collection of her work and submit it to a committee for review.

In addition to Ms. Dayton's award, Deputy Superintendent Diana Todaro was recognized by the New York State English Council as an Administrator of Excellence, due to her ardent support of language arts and literacy in the Harborfields Central School District.

Congratulations to both Ms. Dayton and Ms. Todaro.



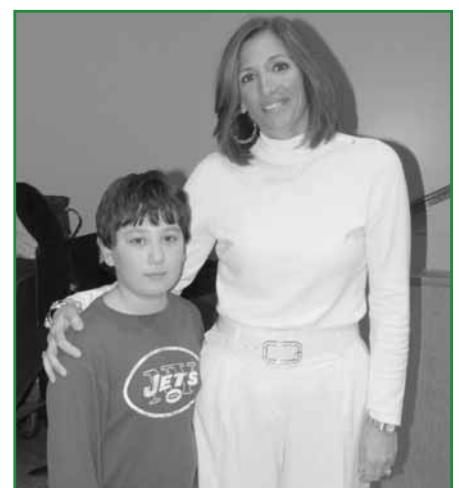
TJL Principal Florence Tuzzi (left) congratulates Educator of Excellence Jane Dayton.

OMS Student Recognized for Academic Excellence

Alec Ascione, a seventh-grade student at Oldfield Middle School, was recently honored at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children held by Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY). Alec was honored based on his exceptional performance on the SCAT, the junior equivalent to the SAT's, as a sixth grader.

Since 1979, CTY has sought the most academically able elementary and middle school students each year and encouraged their enrollment in CTY's annual Talent Search. Students enrolled in the Talent Search go on to test through the fall and spring.

In 2009-10 alone, over 53,000 students from 21 states and the District of Columbia participated in the Talent Searches offered through CTY. Only 25% of the seventh and eighth grade testers earned an invitation to an Awards Ceremony. Alec recently joined other award recipients at a New York State ceremony, and was individually honored by Johns Hopkins for his academic performance and promise.



Alec Ascione is congratulated by Oldfield Middle School Principal Joanne Giordano.



Parents at Washington Drive Primary School participate in the PARP Read-In as they share a selection of books with students.

WDPS Students “Follow the Reading Road”

In mid-January, Washington Drive Primary School kicked off its annual Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) event, sponsored by the school’s PTA. During PARP week, students are encouraged to read at home (with the help of parents, if needed) for at least 20 minutes a day. The school’s goal for the week is for the entire student body to read a cumulative 2011 hours.

The theme of this year’s PARP week is “Follow the Reading Road.” To kick-off the week, parents were invited to the school for a read-in, during which parents found cozy corners of the school and curled up to read a selection of books to their child.

According to PTA Co-President Michelle Gegwich, “The Washington Drive teachers are always so supportive of this program and help the children meet their reading goals.”

Making a Difference Day

Thomas J. Lahey teachers Cris Brooks, Nicole Taylor and Enza Greenwald had a special way to celebrate National Make a Difference Day this year. Their classes were given the opportunity to think about someone in our school district or community who has made a difference in their lives. The students each selected one special person that they consider to be one of our most important community members. Each of these special people received a letter from the student who selected them, stating how that person has made a difference in the school, and inviting them to a celebration in their honor.

The celebration took place on November 3rd at Thomas J Lahey. At the ceremony the students each held up a card to spell “You Make a Difference in Our World.” Each letter also represented a character trait to describe the honorees such as Amazing, Optimistic, etc. Refreshments were served and the honorees each took home a special memento of their day.



Student Jared Buchholtz honored Mrs. Horne for “Make a Difference Day.”



Chris Shlisky (right) is pictured with Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Howard Koenig.



OMS Student Nominated for Community Service Award

Oldfield Middle School is pleased to announce that Arianna Starost, an eighth-grade student, has been nominated for the Prudential Spirit of Community Service Award. This award program is the largest youth program in the country to recognize outstanding community volunteers.

Arianna earned her school’s nomination by volunteering her time last summer teaching flute to fourth-grade students at a summer band camp. “I love to volunteer,” Arianna said. “It is fun to help other people and see their reactions when they learn something new.”

Arianna is pictured with Oldfield Middle School guidance counselor Anita Nigro, who recently presented Arianna with a special certificate for her nomination. Congratulations, Arianna, and good luck in the state competition!

Community Spirit Shines at Annual Fundraiser

At the beginning of December, the Harborfields community united for the third annual HHS PTSA and Barnes & Noble Bookfair. Throughout the afternoon and evening, shoppers at Barnes & Noble were treated with performances from members of the community, ranging from a pre-school comedy troupe to high school chamber ensemble members and seasoned veteran singers.

Several members of the Harborfields School District staff and administration also made special guest appearances. Marguerite Greene, the new assistant principal at Washington Drive Primary School, read several stories to spellbound youngsters, while Mr. Jordan Cox and Mr. Stu Horowitz served cappuccinos in the café. Back by popular demand, Mrs. Allison Kraham played her guitar and sang, and convinced Mr. Rettino to sing a duet with her as well! They definitely brought down the house with their special rendition of “L-O-V-E.” Thomas J. Lahey Principal Florence Tuzzi cheered them on as the children and teachers sang “Florence Tuzzi’s coming to Town.” Howie Lyons, local Rock Star of TJL,

flew (maybe on Santa’s sleigh?) to Barnes & Noble after helping the TJL Team defeat OMS in the Annual Charity Basketball Game. He arrived just in time to read to all the children, capping off a marvelous day of performers and community spirit.

Mrs. Laura Reikert allowed the district to display some masterpieces of artwork created by elementary students, which provided a perfect backdrop for the performers. Many high school students volunteered for the event, as well as countless parents. It was truly a memorable day and evening for all who were able to attend. The HHS PTSA offers their sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and talent for this event.



Did You Know?

Spotlight on Hidden Talents of Harborfields' Staff



Kindergarten teacher Dominique Lemieux shares her singing talent with the Washington Drive community.

Students see them everyday...in the classroom, cafeteria, or school hallways. To the children, they are the dedicated teachers, aides, custodians, and staff members who make Harborfields the great district it is. They dedicate their time, talents, and hard work to the school system, helping our students succeed and to discover their potential. But beneath their "day job," many members of the Harborfields staff hold special talents. To the staff members featured below, their talent is not merely a "hobby," but a way to share their interests and enhance the learning experience of all students within the Harborfields Central School District.

At Washington Drive Primary School, kindergarten teacher Dominique Lemieux is known to incorporate singing into almost every lesson she conducts with her students. As a young child, Ms. Lemieux began singing and has developed her talent throughout the years. In high school, she was an avid cheerleader; but due to a dislocated knee she suffered during a ski trip, her cheerleading career ended. "This opened up the door for me to participate in school musicals," Ms. Lemieux said. She also became a member of her school's chorus, select chorus, and concert choir, in addition to singing at her church.

In 2008, Ms. Lemieux gave fame a try, as she auditioned for "American Idol." While she did not make it past the first round, Ms. Lemieux did make the opening credits for the show! She has also performed at a variety of open mic



Christy Roxo stands in front of the "Career Quilt" she helped her students compose several years ago.

nights, sung the National Anthem at the local Memorial Day parade, and has performed in the high school variety show. But her students are the ones who benefit the most from her talent. Ms. Lemieux states, "I sing to my students all the time – I love it!"

As students leave Washington Drive and graduate to Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, they are greeted with warm images that adorn the hallways as they enter the school for the first time. What students may not know is that TJL's head custodian, Erich Monkan, is the talent behind the beautiful pieces of art. Mr. Monkan, who has worked for the district for the past 17 years, began drawing and painting as a kid. He continued through high school. Once he graduated, Mr. Monkan enlisted in the Marines and started a family; therefore, his hobby was put on hold for awhile.

Mr. Monkan said, "I started back up about seven or eight years ago." He now shares his talent with the students of TJL, creating beautiful murals and supporting the PTA with his talents when needed. In addition, Mr. Monkan draws and paints during his free time and is even commissioned to create portraits and other artwork outside of school.

At Oldfield Middle School, teacher Christy Roxo turned her passion for sewing, quilting, and nutrition into a full-time teaching career. Ms. Roxo, now a home and careers teacher, first began working as a certified dietitian (something she still practices outside of school). To the students and staff at OMS, Ms. Roxo is known for her talented skill of quilting. She has made approximately 50 quilts in her lifetime, a skill she began developing when she was in her 20s. She prides herself in teaching students how to embroider, stitch, and sew, in addition to cooking and exploring careers and entrepreneurship. "These skills require students to use math and their reading skills," Ms. Roxo said.

Approximately seven years ago, Ms. Roxo led 200 students in creating a unified quilt. Students were asked to create their own squares based on a career they wanted to pursue. The squares were then pieced together to make the "Career Quilt." That quilt, now on display in the Board of Education room at OMS, captured a Western Suffolk BOCES award which granted the school \$1,000 towards new equipment.

Among the quilts she's created, Ms. Roxo considers the ones she's made for her granddaughter to be her favorites. "I love using bright, vivid colors for children," she said. "I hope to pass this skill onto my granddaughter and to anyone else who would like to learn!"

At Harborfields High School, when students step into the cafeteria, it is like they are visiting their grandmother's house, complete with homemade food and a feeling of warmth and love. This is mainly due to the hard work and spirit of Filomena Piscitelli, the high school's



TJL's head custodian Erich Monkan stands in front of one of the many murals he has painted at the school.

food service manager. Ms. Piscitelli, born and raised in Naples, Italy, immigrated to the United States in 1963. Her husband ran a shoe repair business and, as she says, "He didn't want me to work. He liked that I could bring him a hot sandwich to work every day and take care of our kids!"

Once Ms. Piscitelli's oldest son entered Harborfields High School in 1979, however, she convinced her husband that she should work. "I told him I had to go to work at the high school to keep an eye on our son!" Since then, Ms. Piscitelli has kept the stomachs of Harborfields' High School students full of good food – from homemade sauce sautéed with onion and garlic, to roasted turkey and mashed potatoes. "I love working with the children," Ms. Piscitelli states. "I treat them like my own. I'm always telling them, 'Mangia, Mangia, Mangia!'"

In her spare time, Ms. Piscitelli loves to cook at home. Every Friday night, she hosts her entire family, including seven grandchildren, for dinner. She has also begun to pass her skills down to her family – her six-year-old grandson is already known for the great meatballs he makes! Perhaps the most important thing Ms. Piscitelli has passed on to everyone who has had the opportunity to meet her is the sense of joy and respect she has for those she meets. "From my heart, I treat everyone with respect – if you respect them, you'll get respect in return," she says.



Filomena Piscitelli displays just one of many delicious creations she and her staff make daily for high school students.

HELPING HANDS *in Harborfields*

Students, staff, and parents from across the Harborfields Central School District united to help others less fortunate this holiday season. Leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, students at every school held various food and clothing drives, all to benefit those in need.

At Washington Drive Primary School, the Acts of Kindness Committee sponsored its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, coordinated by Special Education Teacher Jennie McCarthy, Speech Teacher Jenn Pennisi, and Social Worker Carrie DeWan. During the months of October and November, staff and students were asked to donate non-perishable items to be used in food baskets for WDPS families in need. Many of the classrooms put together their own baskets and decorated them with student artwork, while others helped out with sorting the donated food. With the support of numerous faculty members and the generosity of many parents and teachers in the Harborfields community, the school was able to assemble over 51 baskets of food for Harborfields families.

Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School students also compiled special baskets to be donated to the Harborfields community. For example, Jason Mercurio's fourth-grade class donated boxed goods to the Harborfields Alliance for Community Outreach (HACO), an organization committed to serving those families in need within the Harborfields area. The students also decorated pie boxes and filled them with 60 baked pies donated by Dave Tunney, owner of Besito and Honu restaurants. Also at TJL, students in Ms. Sordi's class spent time baking 25 pies to be donated to the Harborfields Food Pantry. They baked pies in every variety, from apple and cherry, to blueberry and pumpkin.

Oldfield Middle School also compiled baskets for families in need this season. According to OMS social worker Sherry Hafers, middle school students donated enough items to support families with holiday food baskets. In addition, faculty members from OMS and TJL competed against one another at the beginning of December in the second annual teachers' basketball tournament. The event drew over 400 students and family members and raised \$4,400, which was donated to HACO.

The basketball tournament was organized by OMS teacher Mr. Hsaio and was sponsored by the OMS student government, under the advisement of Mrs. Russo and Mr. Havernack. In mid December, representatives from OMS gathered to present a check to Ms. Maggie Boba, Vice President of the Harborfields Board of Education and an executive board member of HACO. Ms. Boba stated, "There are a lot of people who need food right now. This money will help us provide food baskets and gifts for the holidays."

High school students were also in the giving mood this season. The school's National Honor Society conducted a school-wide food drive, in addition to a large drive sponsored by the Harborfields Community Outreach Club students. Also through HACO, students held fundraisers, stocked shelves, and prepared over 100 baskets for Thanksgiving delivery. This program provides yet another example of the cooperative, pronounced sense of social responsibility that binds our student and alumni community.

Also at the high school, Habitat for Humanity students volunteered weekend time to serve "Sunday Supper" to those in need. These dedicated youngsters, under the dynamic leadership of advisor Therese Gold, provide vital assistance to the local HOPE program. The good works of our dynamic advisor and her team helped to feed hundreds of hungry people during this difficult time of year.

The Environmental Club, under the direction of Brian Flynn, also spent a weekend morning to help needy families in the community. Ten students gathered at the First Presbyterian Church in Huntington to compile food baskets and then worked in conjunction with the Huntington Department of Minority Affairs to deliver food for Thanksgiving.

According to high school principal Dr. David Bennardo, "It is heartwarming to see the way our teachers and students conduct lessons and inspire actions that transcend the traditional classroom walls. It is also wonderful to know that our Harborfields' parents are raising children with such a pronounced sense of social responsibility."



Students at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School bake pies for families in need.



Washington Drive students in Mrs. Derby's class assemble gift baskets to donate to HACO.



Students and staff from OMS present HACO Executive Member Maggie Boba with proceeds from the faculty basketball tournament. Pictured from left to right are OMS Vice Principal Wayne Cronk; OMS Principal Joanne Giordano; Student Government members Matt Alhwizck, Ian Leskody, Katherine Ryan, Patrick Godfrey, Kathleen Shea, and Connor Bennardo; HACO Executive Board Member Maggie Boba; and OMS teachers Mr. Hsaio and Mr. Havernack.



Autism Awareness

Third-grade students at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School participated in an Autism Awareness lesson. Mrs. Holm, a speech-language pathologist, and Mrs. Bulfin, a special education teacher, visited each third-grade classroom and read the story *I Have Autism: A Child's First Look at Autism*, written by Pat Crissey.

The teachers visited each classroom for 20-30 minutes and allowed time for the students to ask questions which allowed them to gain an informational understanding of what autism is. "Creating autism awareness is very important for all students as well as staff members," stated Mrs. Holm.



Third-grade students participate in a special Autism Awareness lesson at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School.

WDPS Students Explore the U.S. from the Comforts of Their Classroom

Second-grade students in Ms. Fenter's class at Washington Drive Primary School recently travelled across the nation from the comfort of their own classroom. As part of a larger geography lesson, the students each picked a state to research and report on. During their presentation to the class, students were asked to locate their chosen state on the map and answer certain questions from Ms. Fenter.

They were able to tell the class about a famous person born in their selected state and other interesting facts. One student, presenting on South Dakota, told students she learned that Mount Rushmore is a famous landmark in that state. Another second grader talked about the lure of Key West in Florida. Overall, the project was not only a terrific lesson in geography for the students, but further practice in their presentation skills.



A student at Washington Drive Primary School presents her geography report to Ms. Fenter and her fellow students.

A Celebration of Cultures

Students at Oldfield Middle School hosted a multicultural festival for the school community, under the guidance of teachers who serve on the Multicultural Committee. Prior to the festival, the students decorated the school cafeteria with colorful balloons and flags from around the world. For the celebration, middle school families donated a variety of food that represented their heritages, from Polish pierogies and Italian baked ziti to Chinese lo mein and Thai chicken skewers.

During the festival, students also performed musical numbers for all in attendance. Ellie Horn and Alisa Chang played piano; Erica Brousseau, Marc Hochwald, and Nora Gleeson performed on cello and violin; and Gabriela Farino performed a vocal number in Italian.

In addition, Mrs. Kennedy's Spanish class performed the Spanish Alphabet song, and Ms. Chan's Multicultural Club performed the Hawaiian Hukilau Dance, which ended with members of the audience joining in on the dance. Members of the Multicultural Club even got Principal Joanne Giordano to join them in the Hukilau! Overall, the event was a great success.



Members of the Multicultural Club perform the Hukilau Dance.

Two for Two: Harborfields Student Selected to 2011 SCMEA All-County Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Senior Max Deem has once again been selected to represent Harborfields High School as a member of the 2011 SCMEA All-County Vocal Jazz Ensemble. This is the second consecutive year that Max has been selected to this highly competitive vocal ensemble.

The SCMEA All-County Vocal Jazz Ensemble is made up of several dozen of Suffolk County's finest student jazz vocalists. The ensemble rehearsed several times in preparation for SCMEA Jazz Day, held on February 12, 2011, and for a performance in Albany to be held on Tuesday, March 8, for members of the New York State Legislature.

Max Deem is a dedicated member of the Harborfields High School music program. He is a talented saxophone player in the band program in addition to performing in the high school concert choir and vocal ensemble. Outside of Harborfields High School, Max is a member of the Nassau-Suffolk Vocal Jazz Ensemble. He studies jazz voice privately with Michelle Lindsley. Congratulations to Max, his family, and Ms. Clare Jackson, HHS Choral Director, for achieving All-County status for a second year!



Max Deem is pictured with Choral Director Clare Jackson.

Teachers in Action at TJL

On December 2, 2010, TJL was privileged to host visitors from two elementary schools from the Garden City School District. The purpose of the visit was for Garden City teachers and administrators to observe Lahey's Balanced Literacy in action. Visitors had the opportunity to observe several teachers modeling guided reading instruction and writer's workshop. They also had the opportunity to visit TJL's literacy bookroom. At a debriefing session following the classroom visits, resources and strategies were shared. The visitors left with a plethora of information and beaming with motivation and excitement.

The professional sharing was enriching for both TJL and Garden City teachers. The visiting principal was so impressed with the visit she thanked all participants by saying, "It was wonderful to share the magic of TJL with our visitors."



U.S. Marine Corps Band Visits HHS



Harborfields alum, Staff Sergeant Steve Talbot, performs during the band's visit to Harborfields High School.

In late fall, members of the Albany U.S. Marine Corps Band, based in Albany, Georgia, visited students at Harborfields High School. Included in this talented group of musicians was Staff Sergeant Steve Talbot, a Harborfields HS alumnus, Class of 2001.

Formed in 1990, the Albany Marine Band became one of only 12 bands throughout the Marine Corps. Stationed at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia, this Band of fifty Marines travels throughout the United States and internationally to fulfill its mission of serving as musical ambassadors, providing music for

military ceremonies, community celebrations, recruiting programs, and official events.

The Albany Marine Band began the day at Harborfields by performing for students, staff, and administrators on James Brennan Memorial Field. They then devoted their time during the day to host two clinics for members of the high school bands.

According to Tom Gellert, Director of Music and Art for the Harborfields Central School District, "It was a very special honor to be able to host the band. It was also wonderful to welcome Steve back to Harborfields."



Members of the Albany Marine Band with administrators from the Harborfields Central School District.



Third-grade student Sarina Longin and her grandmother "Mimi" read together outside as part of TJL's annual Read-In event.

TJL STUDENTS Cozy Up to A Good Book

More than 300 parents, grandparents, and loved ones attended Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School's annual "Read-In" to spread the love of reading with TJL students. For this special occasion, TJL children had the opportunity to invite a special person in their lives to the Read-In, during which they cozied up and read together at the end of the school day. Books and blankets in tote, parents set up their coveted reading spots in the school's courtyard, hallways, and playground and shared a collection of their favorite stories.

Sponsored by the PTA, the Read-In was also an opportunity to collect gently used books for the Dolan Family Health Center. According to Read-In Chair Donna Stein, TJL families donated approximately 200 books for this cause.

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