

HARBORFIELDS H. S.

CLARION

ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2009

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

BY DR. DAVID BENNARDO

Somehow, in what seems like the blink of an eye, September and October have drawn to a close. The start of another school year is behind us, homecoming celebrations have successfully come and gone, and the end of the first academic quarter approaches the horizon. It has been an incredibly successful fall and the tone is set for a fantastic year to come. Our students, teachers, and staff have approached 2009-10 with characteristic enthusiasm and the high school family stands ready to reach previously unforeseen heights. We have no question that this next chapter in Harborfields High School history will be filled with grand accomplishments as we improve even further upon the unprecedented success of this previous school year.

While it is always our tradition to look ahead, we would be remiss to ignore the accomplishments of the year gone by. The reality is that the members of our high school family experienced one of the finest academic and extra-curricular years that our district has ever known. Regents results topped the charts in virtually every category and we emerged as the scholastic standard-bearer in Suffolk County. More students endeavored Advanced Placement courses than ever before with a record number

earning college credit. Our graduating seniors went on to some of the finest institutions in the country and our athletes, musicians, artists, and performers amassed a myriad of collective and personal honors. It was inspiring to see this excellence recognized on the national level as *US News and World Report* declared Harborfields one of "America's Best High Schools".

While the 2008-09 year will always stand as a proud memory, the members of our learning family remain committed to bold new accomplishments.

In just two short months of school, our students and faculty have carved their own special paths of excellence. Our guidance department's recent transcript review revealed a record 48% of our senior class amassing at least a 90% grade point average. We also inducted an impressive number of students (98) into the prestigious National Honor Society and crowned 41 Advanced Placement Scholars. Additionally we had 6 students earn commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and another three named as semifinalists in the Merit Scholar competition. Fortunately, the academic focus in our building is strong and our teachers and students remain

committed to the highest possible scholastic achievement.

It is wonderful to note that the academic excellence that characterizes this new year also manifests itself in co-curricular endeavors. The Tornado athletes continue to represent us with distinction as they display character and tenacity in their games, meets, and matches. Our musicians, while working tirelessly in preparation for the *Newsday* Marching Band Festival, have seen an unprecedented 20 members earn all-county and another 8 all-state designations. All this has taken



place against a backdrop of creative excellence as the National Art Honor Society seniors unveiled their first gallery of the new season.

Somehow, despite the grueling schedule created by their extra-curricular and academic commitments, our students still find time for service and dedicate countless hours to the needs of those less fortunate. As you can see, the Renaissance spirit remains alive and well at Harborfields High as we strive to nurture the multi-talented students who will lead this next generation.

The weeks ahead will provide great excitement as we begin

the second academic quarter, prepare for the holidays, and usher in a new athletic season. The popular Safe Halloween program, on October 29th, will showcase the special connection between our high school and elementary age children. The Athletic Wall of Fame dedication then follows on October 31st and our National Art Honor Society students will be inducted on Tuesday, November 4th. The fall theater production of "Don't Drink the Water" will be unveiled on November 13th and 14th and the annual PTSA Variety Show arrives on the next weekend. We then emerge from Thanksgiving weekend to enjoy the December 4th PTSA Barnes and Noble fundraiser and spend the Monday and Tuesday before holiday vacation enjoying two nights of our winter concert series. As you can see, the future is filled with exciting activities and we welcome you all to join in the wave of enthusiasm that has captured our great school.

Please know that we remain keenly aware of the collective effort that it takes to build a successful school culture. The many victories and countless activities we celebrate are the result of a dynamic learning community. The working partnership between students, parents, and teachers continues to fuel our historic success. **We look forward to more wonderful news to come.**

GOOD NEWS

- **Katie McLennan**, a Harborfields senior, has been recognized as one among a select group of twenty outstanding high school scholar/artists for the 2009-2010 academic year from all of Nassau and Suffolk counties. In addition to her demanding academic schedule here at Harborfields High School, Katie attends Long Island High School for the Arts as a Drama major and is very active in the Harborfields Theatre Company where she has appeared in many featured roles, among them Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* and Princess Winifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*. She has attended pre-college programs over the last two summers at the University of the Arts and American Academy of the Dramatic Arts. For the last four years she has been seriously studying voice and has been accepted to All-County Choir three years running. She is a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society and the National Honor Society as well as the International Thespian Society. Katie has received a National Merit Scholarship Commendation, and has already earned college credits through Harborfields' AP program. Katie is an AP Scholar with Honor and is among the very top students in the class of 2010. Her profile and portrait will appear in Newsday next month. Congratulations, Katie!

- It gives us great pleasure to announce that **Allison Abbott, Kathryn Easop, Noah Kantro, Katherine McLennan, Jonathan Ostrander, and Lucy Seery** have been named as Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Program. This prestigious distinction places the six talented seniors among the top 3% of students in the nation. A Commended Student designation is an honor reserved for the very finest young scholars in the United States. Special congratulations to the dedicated teachers who mentored these six award winners throughout their high school careers.

- We are proud to report that three of our students have performed with distinction in the National Merit Scholarship Program. **Elliot Feld, Alexander Pressman, and Christopher Price** distinguished themselves from the 2 million talented entrants and earned semi-finalist status in the prestigious scholastic contest. This designation, presented to less than 1% of our nation's students, speaks volumes about the talented trio's scholarship and commitment to intellectual growth. Our entire high school community joins in congratulating Elliot, Alexander, and Christopher and look forward to following their success as they progress to the next level of the National Merit Scholarship competition. It is both an honor and privilege to see our brightest and best perform in such an exemplary manner. Special congratulations to these incredible students as well as the dedicated teachers and loving parents who have nurtured their special talents.

- This month, our National Art Honor Society proudly hosted its first gallery opening of the new year. This dynamic show featured the creations of 15 talented students who literally brought our high school lobby to life. The exciting gallery tradition, created by our dedicated art teachers, **Mrs. DeVaney, Mrs. Ritter, Mr. Maravell, and Ms. Shields** has quickly become one of the cornerstones of the high school program. Special thanks to **Alexandra Gurly, Alex Pressman, Alexandra Stein, Amanda Vengroff, Caroline Golub, Dan Schaffer, Deanna Bennett, Genesis Ramirez, Jeremy Endo, Josh Reller, Julia Karant, Kate Wollman, Kathryn Easop, Mallory Peragine, Morgan Schlaugies, Navah Stein, RJ Curth, Samantha Colamussi, Sarah Gerhardt, Stephanie Squire and Sydney Luethi** for the incredible impact they have had upon our Harborfields' culture.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CLUB

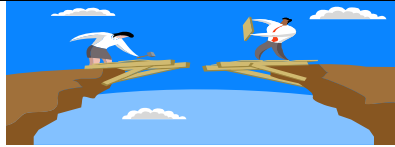
The club membership is at an all time high, with over 120 members, and they keep coming. One of their goals is to become more involved with St. Hugh's and their project HOPE (Helping Other People Eat). Under the leadership of Terese Gold, HHS students, Cameron Coneys, Jake Kramer, Rebecca Kramer, Lily Oschenlager, Conor Murphy, Liam Murphy, Kali Mcgee, Allison Gold, and Maya Perry and her mom attended a Sunday supper. They helped serve soup, salad, bread, dinner, and dessert to over 187 people. They even stayed to clean up!

The club has committed to serving all shifts at the First Sunday supper in November. At that time, they will have parents and children working side by side, prepping the food, cooking, setting up, serving, and cleaning.

If students wish to join Habitat for Humanity Club, they should contact Mrs. Gold.

HARBORFIELDS BEST BUDDIES

The primary mission of Best Buddies at Harborfields High School is to extend the borders of the school community, and make sure everyone feels that they are a part of the Harborfields family. As a group, Best Buddies strives to bridge the gap between cliques, giving individuals a chance to interact with people with whom they may not usually associate. Best Buddies is not comprised of jocks or preps, but of Harborfields students who are just interested in meeting new people and making a difference in their school community.



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Best Buddies is open to all Harborfields High School students. If you are interested in joining this great group, just keep your eyes and ears open for information on our next meeting or event. We invite you to bring a friend and get involved in one of the best programs around.



The score of the big game. The name of that girl in English class. The clothes and hairstyles. Sure, your child remembers those things right now, but what about 10 years from now? You know the next 10 years will be over before your child knows it. Help those memories last forever. Order a copy of HHS's yearbook [The Harborlight](#) to keep high school memories just a flip of the page away.

Buy your yearbook online today at yearbookforever.com. Don't wait! The special pre-sale price of **\$75** is available until the end of 2009!! Guarantee you get a book and save by ordering TODAY!!

Let's make it a great 2010!

The Harborfields High School Yearbook Staff

HHSYearbook@harborfieldscsd.org

HHS PTSA NEWS AND EVENTS

Greetings from your PTSA! It is hard to believe that the leaves are already changing color and we are heading into the holiday seasons. We have a few exciting events planned over the next few months and would love to see you all there:

***November 7** - HACEF Harvest Gala @ Huntington Crescent Club 7pm

* **November 19** -HHS PTSA General Meeting. Speakers include Mrs. Joan Verardo on "Swine Flu" and Ms. Kristin Kankula on "Teenagers and Relationships". All are welcome!

***November 20-21** Council of PTAs Variety Show @ HHS 7:30pm Come out enjoy our local talent and support the Council scholarship program. If you are interested in performing any talent at this event, please contact us at our email address listed below.

***December 4** - BARNES&NOBLE FUNDRAISER @ Walt Whitman Barnes&Noble 9am-9pm Get your holiday shopping done and support the PTSA at the same time. Just be sure to mention "Harborfields" at checkout to get credit for the fundraiser.

*Harborfields High School has signed up with **Stop&Shop** to raise money. Go to your local Stop&Shop or the Stop&Shop website to get the details on how to sign up to earn money for the school.

We still need volunteers for the following committees: Barnes&Noble Fundraiser Dec 4
 Staff Appreciation April 9
 Pre-Prom Reception June 25
 Graduation Announcements Ongoing

Please contact us at hhspta@harborfieldscsd.org to sign up for a committee or ask a question.

Lastly our PTSA Vice President Joann Boccard is "retiring" from the PTA after 16 years. Help her reach her goal of 700 members before her time is up! We are currently at 482 and thank all who have joined. If you are interested in "Joining for Joann", please send \$10 in an envelope marked PTSA to the high school main office.

Enjoy this beautiful season and we thank you in advance for your support!

Liz Carillo HHS PTSA Co-President

Kathie Seery HHS PTSA Co-President



NURSES'S NOTES**2009 H1N1 FLU: SYMPTOMS & BASIC STEPS**

YOU MAY HAVE THE FLU IF YOU HAVE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

Fever(not everyone with the flu will have a fever)

Cough

Sore throat

Runny or stuffy nose

Body aches

Headache

Chills

Fatigue

Sometimes diarrhea and vomiting

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE FLU:

- Stay home and away from other people as much as possible; cover your nose and mouth if you must be around other people (facemask or tissue).
- Unless you are in a high-risk category (a young child, pregnant, have certain underlying health conditions like asthma or diabetes or a weakened immune system, or are 65 years and older), take acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen and drink plenty of fluids.
- Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- Most people get better without treatment and don't need to seek medical help. However, if you are in a high-risk category, consult with your health care provider if you get flu symptoms.

Also, anyone with the following emergency warning signs needs urgent medical attention:

CHILDREN

Fast breathing or trouble breathing

Bluish skin color

Not drinking enough fluids

Not waking up or not interacting

Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held

Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

Fever with a rash

ADULTS

Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath

Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen

Sudden dizziness

Confusion

Severe or persistent vomiting

Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

2ND ANNUAL BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK FAIR

We Need You!

Please Save the Date for our 2nd Annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair, to be held on Friday, December 4th from 9am until 10pm at the Walt Whitman Barnes & Noble. For every purchase made in the store that day accompanied by a Harborfields Voucher, including textbooks, games, school supplies & books, we will receive a percentage of the sales. It's a great opportunity to shop for the holidays, for gifts, and just because! We will be throughout the afternoon and evening, administrators serving younger students. We welcome help in any form: if you us wrap gifts, if you'd like to help with the crafts or read to support our schools and our Community with your presence any questions, please contact Tanya Slamowitz at 631-757-Stephanie Lange at 631-757-9348 or



having community members performing in the café, and crafts & stories for our children. Most important, please come and see. If you would like to volunteer, or have 1611 or slammer4@aol.com, or langes4@hotmail.com.

PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

Mrs. Ritter's Sculpture and Ceramics Class created pinwheels in honor of International Day of Peace, on Sept. 21, 2009. The pinwheels were installed in the front of the building. The **Pinwheels for Peace** art installation is a project started in 2005 by two Art teachers in Florida. This international art installation has become a world wide event, with more than 1 million pinwheels on display in 2,500 locations around the world.

NATURAL HELPERS

Advisors: Dr. Quiett and Dr. Harris

The Natural Helpers have started their year by reaching out to help members of the Harborfields Community. The group provided a raffle basket to the Dylan's Footprint Barbecue Fundraiser held October 2nd. Natural Helpers learn their first responsibility is to take good care of themselves, by using time management skills and stress reducing techniques, so they can have the emotional, mental and physical reserves to help others. The theme of the raffle basket they donated was "Take Good Care of Yourself" and included a gift certificate to a day spa, a gift certificate to a nail salon, various lotions, soaps, bath salts, healthy snack food and soft, luxurious spa towels.

Natural Helpers also volunteered their time and talents at the Long Island Fall Festival. They helped at the Dylan's Footprint booth by handing out Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy informational literature, selling beautiful hand painted glassware decorated by HHS student and faculty artists, and painting faces of delighted small children.

Plans for the annual Natural Helpers Training Retreat are well underway. Natural Helpers spoke to the Freshmen class in an assembly explaining the organization and its goals, tallied over 1200 surveys, and assisted in the selection of new trainees. Each year veteran Natural Helpers from the senior class return to the retreat to serve as trainers. Each senior who wants to be considered for the honor writes an essay explaining what Natural Helpers means to them, their involvement in NH activities, and why they would be good role models for the new trainees. The anonymous essays are read by all members who then choose the seniors they feel would best represent them. The final roster of Senior Trainers will be completed soon. Letters have gone to the students, and their parents, who are invited to become Natural Helpers at this year's Training Retreat. The Parent Orientation meeting will take place October 22 and the retreat will take place November 1, 2 and 3 on Shelter Island.

Music Department News

from Thomas Gellert,
District Director of Music and Art Education

2009 HHS NYSSMA All-State Musicians

The Harborfields CSD Music Department is pleased to announce the selection of eight students to the 2009 NYSSMA All-State performing groups. This amazing accomplishment is based upon the superior performance of our high school musicians at last spring's NYSSMA All-State auditions. Some 7000 students statewide compete each year for selection to NYSSMA All-State. Only a small, select group of the best high school musicians are chosen from each instrumental/vocal section of the band, choir and orchestra that form elite performing groups at the state level.

The 8 students chosen from Harborfields HS represent our finest musicians and validate the success of our high school small group lesson program, as well as our full ensemble program. This year's number is a "high water mark" for NYSSMA selection in the 11 years that I have watched our program grow in size and quality. Congratulations to the following students, their parents and their Harborfields music teachers: **Allison Abbott** - Soprano II (All-State Mixed Chorus) **Joseph Antonucci** - Trumpet (All-State Symphony Orchestra) **Myles Drance** - Bassoon (Alternate) **Erin Barth-Dwyer** - Soprano II (All-State Mixed Chorus) **Jessica Englander** - Bb Clarinet (All-State Symphonic Band) **Katelyn Gallanty** - Soprano II (Alternate) **Lauren Oliveri** - English Horn All-State Symphony Orchestra) **Jaclyn Rittershaus** - Bb Clarinet (Alternate) The 2009 NYSSMA All-State Festival is held in conjunction with the Annual NYSSMA Winter Conference at Rochester, NY.

Our students will rehearse and perform with their respective All-State groups at this year's conference, December 3-6 at Rochester. We are indeed proud of our amazing students and know that Harborfields will be very well represented.

TWENTY HHS STUDENTS SELECTED TO 2009 ALL-COUNTY

The Harborfields High School Music Department recently announced the selection of 20 students to 2009 NYSCAME/SCMEA High School All-County performing groups. Never before has Harborfields High School achieved this sort of representation at a Suffolk High School music festival. In past years, the number of high school students selected to All-County organizations in a single year has ranged between 8-11 students. This year's outstanding crop of student musicians is reflective of the continuing success of the Harborfields music program.

Congratulations are extended to the following Harborfields High School All-County student musicians:

2009 NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Band

*Joseph Antonucci, 1st Trumpet

*Jessica Englander, 1st Clarinet

2009 NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Mixed Chorus

*Erin Barth-Dwyer, Soprano 2

Liam Casey, Bass 1

Maxwell Deem, Tenor 2

*Katelyn Gallanty, Soprano 2

Carolyn Reitter, Soprano 1

Erin Solano, Soprano 2

Alexandra Stein, Soprano 2

2009 NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County HS Women's Choir

*Allison Abbott, Soprano 2

Alexandra Cagnazzi, Soprano 2

Summer Stanfield, Alto 2

Nicole Veleno, Soprano 1

2009 NYSCAME/SCMEA HS Orchestra

Molly Atkinson, Horn 4

*Myles Drance, Bassoon 1

Caitlyn Lyons, Viola

Brian Meagher, Double Bass

*Lauren Oliveri, Oboe 2 / English Horn

Brooke Pearlman, Horn 4

*Jaclyn Rittershaus, Clarinet 2

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 2009 NYSCAME/Suffolk HS All-County performances will take place at Hauppauge High School on Friday evening, November 20, 2009.

Congratulations on this extraordinary honor!

HHS Tri-M Music Honor Society 2009-10 Induction Ceremony

Harborfields High School Chapter #2640 of the Tri-M National Music Honor Society, the honor society for secondary school music students, is pleased to announce the induction of 28 new members at its annual induction ceremony held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009.

Congratulations to: **Steven Abrams, Joseph Antonucci, Molly Atkinson, Nicholas Beccarino, Emily Capobianco, Benjamin Damm, Maxwell Deem, Jeremy Endo, Jessie Englander, Katelyn Gallanty, Michelle Gaye, Molly Gleeson, Ravindra Kadam, Julia Karant, Philip Landini, Victoria Lellis, Stella Lim, Caitlyn Lyons, Kayla McLaughlin, Christopher Price, Jaclyn Rittershaus, Michael Saulle, Emily Shea, Meghan Shortt, Nicholas Taranovich, Kyle Timson, Pamela Wax and Ashley Wurtz.**

In addition to the new members of Tri-M, the following HHS student musicians were recognized as continuing members of Tri-M Chapter 2640: **Allison Abbott, Erin Barth-Dwyer, Alexandra Cagnazzi, Myles Drance, Lisa Giordano, Shelby Jacobs, Stephen Kassinger, Katherine McLennan, Lauren Oliveri, Brooke Pearlman, Juliann Persico, Sara Reinish, Carolyn Reitter, Erin Solano, Alexandra Stein, Nicole Veleno and Kaitlyn Wollman.**

Honorary memberships were conferred upon: **Mrs. Sandra Bennardo** (Dr. Bennardo's mother, who is a retired music educator and was also the keynote speaker for the evening); and, **Dr. Thomas McDonagh** (the newest member of the Harborfields CSD Board of Education). Pre-ceremony music was graciously provided by **Mr. Alan Walter** and several members of the string orchestra. A featured vocal duet performance was given during the ceremony by **Allison Abbott and Erin Barth-Dwyer.**

The goal of the Tri-M Music Honor Society is to foster greater interest in band, orchestra, and choral performance and to provide more opportunities for personal musical expression. Students are selected for membership in the honor society on the basis of musicianship, scholarship, character, leadership, and service to their school and community. The organization's high standards serve to challenge students to greater effort and achievement and to encourage them in the pursuit of excellence.

Congratulations to **Ms. Allison Scilla Bilawsky**, Chapter Advisor and to the current officers of Tri-M Chapter 2640 for a wonderful evening. Best wishes to our 2009-10 HHS Tri-M members.

*THE UNITED TEACHING ASSISTANTS
OF HARBORFIELDS*

And

*OLDFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY*

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE COUNCIL OF PTAs

ARE SPONSORING the 4rd annual

TOY & BOOT DRIVE

Gently Used and New Boots are to be distributed by the school nurses and social workers. New toys are to be distributed by Harborfields Outreach.

We have collected over 600 pairs of boots and are hopeful to continue to provide boots and toys to children in our community.

Donation boxes will be located by the Greeter's desks at Washington Drive, T.J. Lahey, Oldfield Middle School and Harborfields High School

Drop off dates: Monday, November 2–Tuesday, Dec. 1

If you have any questions contact Annie McClintock at mcclintocka@harborfieldscsd.org .



Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ Bonus Bucks. Starting October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010, Harborfields High School will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop&Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program.

All you have to do is log on to:

www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop&Shop using your Stop&Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop&Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit Harborfields High School using ID # 06511.

Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

Friday, December 4th 9am – 11pm

Barnes & Noble

Walt Whitman Mall location

Proceeds to benefit Dylan's Footprint and the HS Library

- See a variety of wonderful performances
- Sample delicious goodies
- Games, crafts, stories for the kids

• Visit (www.harborfieldscd.net)

or call (Tanya Slanowitz @ 757-1611 or Stephanie Lange @ 757-9348)
for additional information

**Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR**
Supporting

Harborfields High School PTSA

Proceeds will benefit:

Dylan's Footprint/HS Library

Friday, December 4th 9am – 11pm

Barnes & Noble

Walt Whitman Mall location

**Please present this voucher prior
to making your purchase.
A percentage of the net sale will
be donated to your school/organization.***

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, text books and magazine subscriptions are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.





Harborfields High School

98 Taylor Avenue

Greenlawn, NY 11740

Phone: 631-754-5360

Fax: 631-261-7557