



CONNECTIONS

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Winter 2024



Students Experience the Future IN NEW SCIENCE WING

A highlight of the start of 2024 was the much-anticipated opening of the new Science Wing at Cold Spring Harbor High School. Located on the backside of the science and mathematics wing, the design of the state-of-the-art modern glassed structure turned a vision into a reality and exceeds expectations.

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch would like to express their appreciation to the community for their support of the 2019 bond which funded the construction of the new Science Wing.

“Our community has always placed a high priority on providing all students with the skills needed to become tomorrow’s innovators and leaders in a learning environment that mirrors the future,” Gierasch said. “We thank the community for their continued support that enables us to provide incredible learning experiences for our students.”

The Science Wing is now the center of science instruction, student research and exploration, with four

cutting-edge science classrooms and laboratories and a marine science lab suite that is host to a wet lab and coral reef propagation tank. Classes include a biology lecture and lab room, a hydroponic living wall and chemistry classrooms accommodating 12 lab stations. While the marine suite is slated for completion in fall 2024, students began attending all other science classes in the new facility in mid-January.

The Science Wing is wheelchair accessible, hosts cloud ceilings and adaptive opaque glass walls that fog at the touch of a button for privacy and all students to learn and conduct independent and collaborative research in an ultramodern advanced science research environment rivaling any college campus.

Special thanks to Assistant Superintendent for Business Christine Costa, Director of Facilities Anthony Clements, Director of STEM Brian Taylor, Jr./Sr. High School Principal Daniel Danbusky and everyone who contributed to the success of this project.



A Message from Your Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch



It's my pleasure to share with you the incredible achievements taking place within our schools, including academic recognitions, groundbreaking research projects, awe-inspiring concerts and plays, and athletic success.

Our students have been expanding their learning in our new science classrooms that officially opened in January funded by the 2019 bond. This space was designed to instill a sense of curiosity and inquiry among our young learners, preparing them for future academic and professional success.

Through various educational activities, we strive to empower our students with the knowledge and skills to learn from the past, take care of themselves and others, and to follow and achieve their dreams. To support our goals, we have hosted many CSH Unites events, including Black History Month, Holocaust Remembrance Day, P.S. I Love You Day and Red Ribbon Week.

As always, safety remains our top priority, and our protocols are continuously evaluated to ensure the safety of our students and staff. I am pleased to share that we have implemented several enhancements to our safety protocols already in place, including the changing of all exterior locks districtwide.

The decisions made by the Board of Education guide the district today and into the future. As we develop the 2024-2025 budget, the Board is considering the following issues:

- **2024-2025 Budget** – The Board is intent on continuing to offer a robust academic program that serves all our children and is weighing the effects of Gov. Hochul's proposed cuts to state aid on our budget.
 - **Use of 2015 Capital Reserve** – The Board is considering a proposition, for voter approval, to use the 2015 capital reserve fund to install a traffic control device at the Lawrence Hill entrance/exit at the Jr./Sr. High School to enhance safety, and to install air conditioning in additional instructional spaces districtwide.
 - **Establish 2024 Capital Reserve Fund** – The Board is considering a proposition, for voter approval, to establish a new capital reserve fund to allow the district to set aside operational surplus funds for future capital needs. This would potentially enable the district to avoid future borrowing costs and budgetary impacts normally associated with long-term debt.
- I hope you will join us at future Board of Education meetings. Together, we will continue to inspire excellence and make a positive impact in the lives of our students and the broader community.

Prestigious National MIT InvenTeam Grant Awarded



In spring 2023, several Cold Spring Harbor High School students approached research teacher Jaak Raudsepp about entering the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam competition and submitted their preliminary application. They were one of 30 teams chosen to submit a final application. The students worked with the Town of Huntington and Suffolk County governments and the Cold Spring Harbor school community and confirmed that ticks are a local problem residents would like to see mitigated.

Cold Spring Harbor High School is the only high school in New York State and one of only eight high schools nationwide selected as this year's recipient of the highly competitive national Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant. CSH was awarded \$7,500 to create an invention geared towards active and passive tick mitigation strategies that do not require pesticides.

"We are honored to receive this prestigious national grant, which recognizes the outstanding research skills and dedication of our students and the district's commitment to providing our students with state-of-the-art STEM research opportunities," Superintendent of Schools

Jill M. Gierasch said.

"These high school students are not just problem-solvers of tomorrow, they are problem-solvers today, helping to make our world more equitable, healthier and safer," Leigh Estabrooks, Lemelson-MIT's invention education officer, said.

Under the direction of Mr. Raudsepp, the 14-member team is researching and developing a solution to reduce the number of ticks in the Northeast. Two subteams are working on different components focusing on determining semichemical excretions in mammalian sweat which have the strongest ability to attract ticks and developing 3D prototypes of the device that will contain the attractants, most effectively disperse the attractants and trap the ticks.

The team presented their Mid Grant Technical Review to the MIT Patent Review Board, and their final presentation of the prototype will take place during EurekaFest in June at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Microsoft also invited the team to apply for its Microsoft Make What's Next Patent Program, which offers diverse inventors patent support and mentorship.



Speech and Debate Team Honors – A Tradition of Excellence Continues

The Cold Spring Harbor High School Speech and Debate Team has been a proud part of the district's tradition of excellence since the 1990s. Under the guidance of head coach Dr. Michael Andrews since 1996, and assisted by assistant coaches Jeanne Glynn and Nicole Kearnes, the team currently has 114 members in grades 9-12.

Debate co-captains are seniors Saami Ali, Fiona Meier, Lance Schneider, Amber Zhou and juniors Charly Coden and Stephen Schmidt. Speech co-captains are senior Molly McHale and juniors Casandra Reilly and Sebastian Monterosso.

The team competes in local and regional tournaments between students representing more than a dozen competitive high schools. Team members are eligible for membership in the National Speech

& Debate Association, also known as the National Forensic League. Every year, the district's Speech and Debate Team has qualified students who have earned enough points to compete at the New York State Speech and Debate Championship. So far, eight students have fully qualified for the state championships: seniors Fiona Meier and Amber Zhou, junior Casandra Reilly and ninth graders Leah Bjorneby, Matthew Kammer, George Kitchin, Jessica Romano and Alex Wenk.

The district would like to acknowledge Dr. Michael Andrews, the recipient of the Foreign Policy Association's Judith L. Biggs Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was one of only 20 master teachers from Canada, Mexico and the United States to receive this prestigious recognition.

STRENGTHENING *Our Campus*

Say Something Anonymous Reporting System

The district continues to prioritize student and staff safety by instituting additional methods for communication in times of need. As of December 2023, CSH has implemented the Sandy Hook Promise Say Something Anonymous Reporting System at the Jr./Sr. High School which provides a confidential platform for students, staff and parents/guardians to report concerning behaviors or potential threats. The anonymity aspect may encourage students to speak up about issues they may otherwise hesitate to address, helping to identify threats to school safety promptly. Sandy Hook Promise, though, encourages students to approach trusted adults with their concerns through enhanced communication and collaboration efforts within the school. The goal is to cultivate a culture of collective responsibility and support, one in which everyone plays a role in maintaining a safe environment.

RAVE App

As we continue to enhance safety and security measures at CSH, administrators and staff have been trained on the utilization of the RAVE Panic Button app which provides users with a quick way to alert authorities in cases of an emergency. The app allows users to quickly send alerts to designated emergency responders, including law enforcement, who are able to more efficiently locate distressed users in real time. The panic button feature can be activated discreetly, allowing users to call for help without drawing attention to themselves in dangerous situations. Although it is our hope to not be in a position of using this app, it will serve as an additional layer within our school system to strengthen our safety and security protocols.



Covert Investigations

In early winter, the district secured the security services of Covert Investigations. We are thrilled to have them join our security team. They have already made an impact, observing our practices, making recommendations for improvement and assisting in implementing the procedures. We expect continued advancements in the areas of training, incident response plans, real-time reporting of nearby incidents, hiring and support with our day-to-day functions. This team of professionals bring years of expert law enforcement experience and will continue to provide the support needed. Please welcome the men and women in the black jackets.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE *NEW COURSES FOR STUDENTS IN 2024-2025*

Course selection and curriculum writing and development are in progress for the following new courses which will be available to students when they start the 2024-2025 school year:

Pre-AP English 1 – This course will support the development of higher-level reading and writing skills that will pave the way for success in high school AP English courses (Seminar, Language/Comp and Lit/Comp).

ICE: The Play's the Thing – This senior English elective is an exploration of dramatic literature through theater of various genres, time periods and locales. Students will study the

ancient Greeks, Shakespeare and contemporary plays.

AP Research – The second course in the AP Capstone experience, AP Research allows students to explore an academic topic, problem or issue of individual interest. This exploration culminates in an academic paper and oral presentation.

Advanced Marine Science – This elective course provides a deep dive into marine habitats, freshwater ecosystems, tidal zones and marshlands, and many other aspects of marine science. Local research will also be included along

with the use of the district's new Wet Lab.

Design and Drawing for Production – DDP is an exciting option for students who are interested in creative problem-solving, engineering and computer aided design. Students who select DDP will create designs, build and test models, and work both independently and on a team.

Thank you to Assistant Superintendent for Counseling, Student Services and Human Resources Mona Hecht and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Genevieve LaGattuta for their support and assistance in providing these offerings.

Join in Welcoming New Administrators



Ms. Megan Gieser, the district's new K-12 director of humanities brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the field of humanities. Her vision and contributions to the district's K-12 English

and social studies programs during the ongoing development and implementation of curriculum will ensure all programs enable students to reach their maximum potential. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Syracuse University, a Master of Arts in education administration from Dowling College, a Master of Arts in secondary education from Dowling College and her doctoral candidacy at Columbia University.



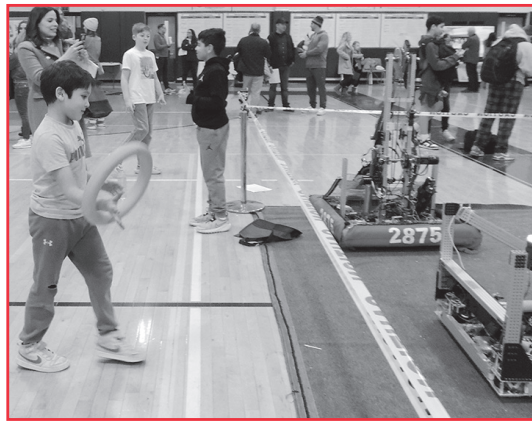
Dr. Nicole Schimpf, the new executive director of special education and pupil personnel services, has more than 18 years of special education and pupil personnel administrative experience. She is a

collaborative leader who approaches situations with a listening ear and empathetic heart. Dr. Schimpf holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Manhattanville College, a professional degree in school administration as well as a Master of Science in school psychology from St. John's University and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and elementary education from Dowling College.



Ms. Carissa Hajdasz, the new Jr./Sr. High School assistant principal, began her career in education as a school counselor at Sauquoit Valley High School and served the Whitesboro Central

School District as a grades 6-8 assistant principal. During the pandemic, she was instrumental in developing programs to address learning loss and educational enrichment. Ms. Hajdasz holds a B.S. in biology from Syracuse University, an M.S. in mental health counseling and school counseling from SUNY Plattsburgh, and a certificate of advanced study in educational leadership from SUNY Cortland.



CSH Unites for STEAMANITIES Event

After the unbelievable success of last year's districtwide STEAM Night, all expectations were exceeded during this year's STEAMANITIES Event, a perfect blend of STEAM combined with a deep dive into the humanities. With more than 300 participants, this year's grade K-8 initiative offered so many exciting activities, that each family received a map to maximize their experience.

Administrators, teachers, staff and more than 100 student-volunteers facilitated 31 fun-filled activity centers to test participants' problem solving skills, teamwork and creativity in managing the hands-on tasks. Students tested their engineering skills using catapults, centrifugal force art, chain reactions, circuit building, gears, Ozobots, marble runs, optical illusions and puzzles. Others gravitated toward booths including Boat Design, the Chemistry of Ice Cream, Slime Making, Volcanic Eruption

and more. Students also enjoyed participating in activities including storytime, puppets, poetry, the American Flag and a tutorial about Libby and audio/ebooks plus paper airplane challenges. The robotics team even demonstrated their robot maneuvers to future team members.

Thankfully, the district secured a grant through the CSH Educational Foundation to create the STEAMANITIES Event organized by a 19-member district technology committee led by Executive Director for Instructive and Administrative Technology, Joseph Monastero. Many of the supplies purchased can be reused for future STEAMANITIES events and in-school technology learning. Thank you to Joseph Monastero, the committee, the staff and high school students for an unforgettable family night of exploration and learning and to the students and families who supported this amazing event.

The Love of Learning Begins at Goosehill Primary School

Let's Take a Storywalk

The students felt like they were experiencing a fairytale walk through the forest, finding pages of a book to read while following their footsteps down the lane. This fabulous Storywalk Installation, the result of a Goosehill PTG fundraiser, was erected this school year. Ten books were chosen with pages enlarged for classes to engage in outdoor group listening and conversation aligning with growth mindset themes, including "Giraffes Can't Dance," by Giles Andreae, an inspirational storyline about acceptance, persistence, encouragement and the positive side of being different. Students in Ms. Cucolo's class loved listening to library media specialist Marissa Urso and principal Christina Cosme reading, asking questions and reflecting about what hard lessons the students achieved after persistence and practice.



World Kindness Day Brings Everyone Together

There were numerous examples of spreading kindness under the #CSHUnites initiative in observance and celebration of World Kindness Day. At Goosehill, kindness week continued each day with special activities, including the creation of a districtwide chain link of kindness notes and students secretly writing a kindness gram to their classmates. A highlight was a special visit by the high school Social Action Club members who spoke with the first grade students about gratitude and the importance of giving to others and assisted them in making and delivering personalized notecards to someone they are grateful for at Goosehill.



Unity, Recognition and Learning at West Side Elementary School ⁵



National Unity Month

A sea of orange flowed throughout West Side Elementary School during National Bullying Prevention Month. Students and staff embraced the monthlong initiative uniting against bullying by emphasizing kindness, acceptance, respect and inclusion for all students. Students and staff proudly wore orange to pledge their support through assemblies, live TV broadcasts, essay writing, poster making, Post-it note pinning and many more activities. As UpStanders not ByStanders, West Side students know a random act of kindness can trigger a ripple effect for positive change.



Celebrating Black History Month

Students learned about the many significant contributions made by African Americans throughout history and into the present, including Ruby Bridges, who overcame adversity to attend a segregated school; Misty Copeland, the first African American principal dancer in the America Ballet Theatre; and Fritz Pollard, one of the two first African American NFL players and first African American coach. Students enjoyed learning the history of the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and creating dance routines using several STEP dancing steps.

A Tradition Continues

The Reading with My Buddy Program has been a longstanding tradition in Bill Arloff's and Diane Santoro's classes, where they have matched sixth grade students with second grade students who meet throughout the school year. This year, third grade teacher Ashley Duddy organized matches for all the grades to have schoolwide buddies. The students absolutely cherish their buddy friendships and enjoy spending time together to read, create art projects and share handwritten notes.



Learning and Achieving at Lloyd Harbor Elementary School

United for Red Ribbon Week

National Red Ribbon Week is recognized as the nation's largest and longest-running health and drug prevention awareness program. As part of the #CSHUnites initiative, Lloyd Harbor hosted a red nutritious snack day offering apples, red peppers and watermelon to encourage healthy eating habits.



challenges young filmmakers to create short movies that summarize entire Newbery-winning books in about 90 seconds. The students were thrilled as library media specialist Whitney O'Donnell announced that contest creator James Kennedy was coming to work with the students. The students shared their ideas and expressed their enthusiasm to be part of this amazing competition.



Principal Valerie Massimo Announces Retirement

After a 16-year tenure beginning in 2008 as principal, Valerie Massimo has announced her retirement effective the end of the school year. Her legacy is defined by passion, dedication and countless achievements. Her love for children is evident and her warmth extends to the dedicated teachers and families who form the heart of the school community.

"I can unequivocally say that we have the most incredible children and families," Ms. Massimo said. "My colleagues are talented professionals who continuously go above and beyond to ensure that we meet the needs of our students."

Certainly, a crowning achievement was the 2022 designation of the prestigious and coveted National Blue Ribbon School Award, a testament to the relentless pursuit of excellence championed by Ms. Massimo and her team of exceptional teachers and staff.



Read All About It

Fifth grade students explored the life of a journalist as part of the Teachers College writing unit for journalism. Teacher and chief editor Jillian Franciscovich assigned students to find feature stories happening in the hallways. The student journalists put their inquisitive minds, writer's eye and creativity to the test, interviewing classmates during lunch, the security guard as well as the school nurse.

Lights, Camera, Action!

The 90-Second Newbery Film Festival contest had students getting their cameras ready for this annual video contest which



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE AT CSH JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Students at CSH Jr./Sr. High School continue to receive state and national recognition for their outstanding academic achievements. Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Program selected six students as 2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Saami Ali, Kathleen Engel, Alexander Grosh, Hannah Stark, Charles Wood and Amber Zhou. They have now been designated Finalists.

This prestigious honor is awarded to students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. These six students entered the competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Nationwide, approximately 1.5 million students sat for the PSAT; those students identified as semifinalists represent less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors and include the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

2024 National Merit Commended Students

Ten academically outstanding students from the Class of 2024 were designated as Commended Students in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to this year's National Merit Commended Students: Zabelle Bobelian, William Brancato, Owen



Cornog, Kira Davis, Lixi Liang, Desmond Mehta, Paris Prestia, Holden Schneider, Ian Smith and Trevor Steele.

The Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch, Jr./Sr. High School Principal Daniel Danbusky, administrators and staff congratulate all the recipients of these prestigious recognitions and thank all involved for their work in preparing these students to succeed on a national level.



Honored to Compete in Remembrance Bowl

Certain stories in life are meant to never be forgotten. The Champagne Bowl was a game scheduled to be played in France in 1944. Sadly, it became known as the game that never happened. That game was canceled, as the 101st Airborne was called to help in what would become known as the Battle of the Bulge. On Sept. 23, CSH embraced a unique opportunity to play in an honorary Remembrance Bowl game as part of the 79th anniversary of D-Day during the Locust Valley Central School District homecoming. The football team, administrators, Board of Education and community were invited for a presentation of the documentary "The Sixth of June," followed by a dinner uniting both teams and a jersey exchange donated by the Patton Foundation honoring American soldiers who were supposed to play this historic football game. Honored guests included Helen Patton, granddaughter of General George Patton, and Maurice Renaud. Both teams were honored to receive a pregame locker room pep talk from Patton, who shared, "My grandfather

always asked that we do more than is required of you."

On each anniversary of D-Day, the 101st Airborne and 82nd Airborne play a flag football game in Sainte-Mère-Église, France, in memory of the game that was never played. Students learned that in the small town of Sainte-Mère-Église, more U.S. flags are flown there than in any other town in the United States every day.

"It was such a privilege to play this game in honor of the 101st Airborne," Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education Michael Bongino said. "I am proud to announce that next year, we will be hosting this very special event on our campus."

If you ever have the privilege to visit Sainte-Mère-Église, be sure to visit the museum that displays the Remembrance Bowl jersey signed by the CSH team.



Senior Citizens Enjoy Dinner and Performance of "Gypsy"

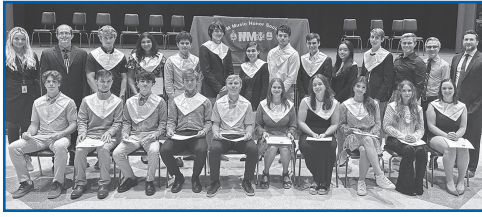
The Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School National Honor Society hosted their annual complimentary pre-show dinner for senior residents from both the Huntington and Oyster Bay senior centers. As the guests entered the cafeteria, they were seated at tables where student waiters and waitresses introduced themselves and served pastas, salads, rolls, fruit and a delicious Viennese dessert table. Throughout the dinner, students and administrators mingled with the guests enjoying interesting conversation and making sure everyone's needs were met.

After dinner, the guests enjoyed a private performance of the production "Gypsy." Everyone agreed it was a fabulous way to bring the students and the community together.

Special thanks to teachers Maria Segura, Myra Georgiou, Lauren Spatola and the cafeteria staff for organizing a fabulous event with student leaders.



The Arts Are Flourishing Districtwide⁷



Exceptionally Talented Musicians and Artists Recognized

Twenty Cold Spring Harbor High School seniors were inducted into the prestigious National Tri-M Music Honor Society for their dedication to the arts and exceptional musical talents. The criteria to be inducted include a four-year commitment to scholarship, character, cooperation, leadership and service. Sixty-three Cold Spring Harbor High School students were inducted into the National Art Honor Society for their extraordinary work and commitment, demonstrated by their unique artistic talents. This year's induction broke the previous district record.

"Our students have demonstrated their love and appreciation for the arts by building upon their own musical and artistic talents," Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch said. "To have the largest number of students inducted into the National Art Honor Society in our district's history is truly a remarkable achievement."

National and Local Artistic Recognitions

Cold Spring Harbor High School student Kylie Drakos earned the prestigious Presidential Scholars Program Award, granted to only 10 students in New York State selected to represent the nation. This is one of the highest achievements for students who demonstrate academic achievement and talent in the visual, creative and performing arts.

Cold Spring Harbor High School senior Toni Nemazi was recognized as a Long Island 2023-2024 Scholar-Artist in theater by the Long Island Arts Alliance. This highly selective recognition is given to those students judged to be the best of the best on Long Island in both academics and in the arts. Also recognized by Long Island Arts Alliance were Cold Spring Harbor High School seniors Alden Kisner (fine arts) and Zelu Wang (media arts), who were recipients of the 2023-2024 Artist Award of Merit.



From left: Cold Spring Harbor High School Principal Daniel Danbusky, Assemblyman Steven Stern, Presidential Scholars Program Award recipient Kylie Drakos, guidance counselor Jacqueline Kovach-Devlin, Board of Education President Alex Whelehan and Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch.



From left: Music Department Chairperson Brent Chiarello, Art Department Chairperson Christine Oswald, Alden Kisner, Zelu Wang, Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch, Toni Nemazi and Board of Education President Alex Whelehan.



'Peter Pan Jr.' Brings Happy Thoughts at Lloyd Harbor

The talented cast and crew at Lloyd Harbor Elementary School led the audience on a magical journey into Never Never Land, wondering what it would be like to never grow up as they traveled with Peter Pan and Wendy on a fairy tale adventure with Captain Hook. The fifth and sixth grade actors presented an outstanding performance under the guidance of director/piano/conductor Christopher McKee and choreographer/musical staging by JoJo Conley.

'Gypsy' a Smash Hit at Cold Spring Harbor High School

The talented Cold Spring Harbor High School cast and crew performed "Gypsy," telling the saga of the ambitious, showbiz mother Mama Rose, who treks across the country with her daughters Baby June and Louise in search

of success with their homespun vaudeville act. Director Melissa McLees, pit orchestra director Andrew Hochler, choreographer Nicole Attardi, set designer Meghan Prchal, lighting designer JT Thompson, audio by Jeffrey Ramirez, and costume designer Charkira Dohery staged a showstopping performance to rival Broadway.



"The Play That Goes Wrong" Did Everything Right

The Cold Spring Harbor High School drama club cast and crew delivered an amazing performance of "The Play That Goes Wrong," directed by music teacher Daniel Santangelo, who made his directorial debut. Audience members quickly learned how the story of the murder at Haversham Manor goes from bad to utterly disastrous as this hilarious 1920s whodunit has everything you never want in a show, including falling props, collapsing scenery, a corpse that can't play dead and actors who trip over everything, including their lines. Prior to taking the stage, the cast was not only treated to a New York City drama workshop at Pearl Studios in Manhattan, but also attended the professional Off-Broadway production of "The Play That Goes Wrong."



Notable Performance

Lloyd Harbor and West Side elementary schools' mixed orchestra thoroughly entertained the Board of Education with a holiday performance during the Board meeting.

**COLD SPRING HARBOR
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Student-Athletes Excel On and Off the Field

The district would like to congratulate its championship teams and acknowledge all the outstanding student-athletes for their achievements on and off the playing field:

- Varsity football won the Big 4 Conference Championship.
- Girls varsity tennis won the Long Island Championship, advancing to a second-place finish at the New York State Championship.
- Varsity cheerleading won the Nassau County Championship, advancing to a third-place finish at the New York State Championship.

"Each team's level of dedication to excellence both on and off the field continues to be exemplary examples of the commitment of our scholar-athlete teams," Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education Michael Bongino said. "We are very proud of all they have achieved."

Continuing to Play on the Collegiate Level

Congratulations to Cold Spring Harbor High School senior athletes Gunnar Anderson and Amelia Bentley who signed their 2024 national letters of intent, which is a binding agreement between the student and the college. This is quite an honor and a testament to their outstanding academic achievements and athletic abilities. Anderson will be playing lacrosse at Quinnipiac University and Bentley will be playing lacrosse at Drexel University. Four senior athletes will be continuing their athletic careers at the Division III level: Cleopatra Dallarís – Franklin and Marshall College (basketball), Genevieve Kessler – University of Rochester (lacrosse), Ryan McGloin – Middlebury College (lacrosse) and Reid Walter – Ithaca College (baseball).



Athletic Administrator of the Year

The council of administrators for Section VIII, the governing body for all high school sports in Nassau County, has selected Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education Michael Bongino as the recipient of the Athletic Administrator of the Year Award presented by the New York State Athletic Administrators Association. Nominees must be a member in good standing of the NYSAAA, show evidence of devotion and idealism to athletics, and demonstrate their influence and promotion of athletics in a positive manner.



Mr. Bongino began his career in the district in 2013. Under his watch, the fields are alive with activity throughout the school year and summer months with organized varsity, junior varsity, middle school, and youth and adult leagues. The district is also a host site to many multidistrict athletic tournaments, including track, cheerleading and wrestling, where numerous districts and their students are treated with the respect, safety, order and effectiveness necessary in the time management of large-scale events. During district events including homecoming, pep rallies, family sport nights or any K-12 health and physical education class involvement, Mr. Bongino is behind the scenes, making it all happen. Congratulations for this well-deserved recognition.

All Teams Achieve Scholar-Athlete Status

The district is proud to share that all boys and girls fall and winter season varsity teams have been designated scholar-athlete teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. To qualify as a scholar-athlete team, a team's grade point average for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to at least 90%. These student-athletes continue to serve as role models for the district's younger student-athletes.