

COLD SPRING HARBOR



VOLUME 43, NUMBER 1

A REPORT ON OUR SCHOOLS

FALL 2019



**BOND VOTE
NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

Bond Referendum

On September 10, the Board of Education hosted a Bond Presentation for all community residents to learn about the upcoming November 19th bond vote. The bond referendum focuses on Enhancing Safety and Security, Expanding Academic Opportunities and Preserving and Improving Facilities. The Board of Education, Superintendent, administrators, and staff are working to support a vision of the future that will allow the district to provide all students with meaningful learning experiences that exceed those which have already been accomplished within current structures.

Upcoming Bond Forum

Tuesday, Nov. 12 • 8 p.m.
District Office
75 Goose Hill Road
Cold Spring Harbor

Please Remember to Vote

Tuesday, Nov. 19 • 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Ralph Whitney Field House
CSH Jr./Sr. High School
Cold Spring Harbor



(front row semi-finalists) *Claire Weis, Anna Tesoriero, Paige Vegna, and Bernhard Nordemann.* (back row) *Director of Guidance, Justin Arini, Principal, Dr. Jim Bolen, Katherine Brennan, Julia Kopp, Alexa Plancher, Kaitlyn Fare, Julia Wallace, Connor Flynn, Nicholas Aronow, Alexander Brancato, and Superintendent, Robert C. Fenter.*

National Merit Scholarship Program 2020

Congratulations to the following students for being named *Commended* and *Semi-Finalists* in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. During the fall of their junior year, students across the nation take the PSAT, and the top scores are then established. The National Merit Scholarship Program, dating back to 1955, holds an annual academic competition identifying and honoring these high school students in the U.S. through recognition and college scholarships. Less than 3% of the 1.6 million students in 22,000 high schools who take this test will become a recipient of the awarded *Letters of Commendation*. Eight of our students received the honor of *Commended* status: **Nicholas Aronow, Alexander Brancato, Katherine Brennan, Kaitlyn Fare, Connor Flynn, Julia Kopp, Alexa Plancher, and Julia Wallace.**

In order to truly appreciate how rare it is to then be identified as a *Semi-Finalist*, only less than 1% advance as a *Semi-Finalist*, and this year that honor goes to four students: **Bernhard Nordemann, Anna Tesoriero, Paige Vegna, and Claire Weis**, who received this distinguished recognition at the high school. Superintendent, Robert C. Fenter shared, “*We are very proud of our National Merit Scholarship winners, for this distinction recognizes the hard work and commitment of our students, the support they have received from their parents and teachers, as well as the community support for our fine schools.*” Congratulations to all! □

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Community Member,

It seems that each new school year brings a sense of excitement for our students as they return to school. Our dedicated leaders and staff put into place all of the plans made over the summer to prepare for the students' return. I have already enjoyed seeing the faces of our students as they engage in new learning experiences that will assist in their academic and social emotional growth in the coming days, weeks, and months.



With the start of the new school year we are seeing the introduction of a new coding experience for our students in grades 4, 5, 6, and 8. We are introducing this topic through a program called KidOYO that supports our students' understanding of how the language of code is written through a problem-solving and subject-based approach. Over the summer, our leaders and teachers spent time learning about this new program and how best to incorporate coding into the learning experiences of our students. Some of our teachers even participated in a three-day camp at Stony Brook to support the launch of KidOYO as we believe this skill is critical

in preparing our students for a world in which possessing an understanding of the power of technology will be critical to their success in college and beyond.

Our district is also undergoing efforts to impact the design of our classrooms so that our children's learning environments reflect the kind of student-centered, team-based experiences that we believe are critical to supporting the development of academic and interpersonal skills. The new Next Generation Learning Standards as well as standards in other disciplines, including the arts, all emphasize students learning in environments that are supported through inquiry, with students grappling with important issues and questions. We also know that learning is best achieved when our students have the opportunity to share their ideas with others and to generate evidence-based arguments that can be tested through rigorous discourse. By transforming our classrooms with flexible furniture that allow teachers to move seamlessly from whole class experiences to small group exercises, we not only support critical thinking and engagement, but we also support the instructional choices of our teachers that research tells us is most impactful for students, not only academically, but also in the area of their sense of connectedness to school. Our Board of Education has been committed to this work, and, with the additional generous support of the Cold Spring Harbor Educational Foundation, we will be transforming more classrooms in all of our schools with this type of design. As a result, more and more of our classrooms are resembling the type of environments that are more common in companies like Google, Hulu, and other organizations that support curiosity, research, and creativity.

As we work to ensure that our facilities support this type of learning experience for our students, our Board of Education is engaging in a bond referendum scheduled for November 19 that will support safety and security, academic opportunities, and facility preservation and enhancement. I encourage you to learn more about these plans by reviewing the information found on our website and by attending our bond forum scheduled for November 12 at 8:00 p.m. at the Francis Roberts Community Center. Among a number of other important projects, the bond referendum includes the creation of a STEAM learning center and new science classrooms that will transform the facilities that our students have been using for many years in the areas of art, technology, and Family and Consumer Science at the Jr/Sr High School.

I know that you share my excitement for the new school year and for the work that our district is doing to prepare our students for the future by providing them with the most meaningful and engaging learning experiences and environments possible. Wishing everyone a wonderful school year ahead.

Sincerely,
Robert C. Fenter



(front row) Sandra Dolisi (Spanish FLES LH), Meghan Cuff (leave replacement LH), Elena Axelrod (HS Social worker), Dana Matuk (LH Special Education), Diane Scinta (Assistant Director/Manager of Youth Services, Public Library). (back row) Ashley Thompson (Special Ed WS), Kristine Romanelli (2nd Grade LH), Victoria Denihan (Special Ed GH), Chris Homer (Mentor Coordinator)

Welcome New Staff

A warm welcome to our newest staff! Each year an orientation is held to acclimate new staff to the district, and the culture of the community. In August, teachers new to the District engaged in a two-day training preparation, which included a trip to the CSH Public Library where all new teachers and administrators received a library card. New staff had an opportunity to hear from veteran teaching staff, participate in a technology workshop, and hear from various administrators and the president of the Board of Education. This new teacher orientation is one part of a larger district initiative aimed at providing in-depth assistance and guidance to all new teachers throughout the tenure process. The mentoring program includes approximately fifty new and seasoned staff, under the direction of Superintendent Robert C. Fenter; Joey Waters, Assistant Principal; and Trish Sihksnel and Chris Homer, New Teacher Mentor Coordinators. □

A Message from the Board...

Dear Resident:

The opening of school is always marked with great anticipation and much excitement about the new year. From our very youngest at Goosehill to our incoming seniors at the Jr./Sr. High School, students returned to the classroom, enthusiastic and eager to begin anew. As the summer came to an end, September began with a flurry of activity; new grade levels and courses of study, the start of co-curricular clubs and athletic teams, and a time to reacquaint with all those we had not seen.

Several new faces greeted children, including a new Principal at West Side School, an Assistant Principal at the Jr./Sr. High School, a Director of Guidance, and a Director of STEM. We are so very fortunate to have these talented educators join our dedicated school community and look forward to working with them for many years to come. If you have not already, please take a few moments to meet and learn more about them in the days and weeks ahead.

This school year brings another exciting opportunity for our community. After a year of planning, the Board of Education voted at their September 10th meeting to authorize a bond vote on Tuesday, November 19th. The scope of work for this \$34,425,000 project, which will be funded by a \$33,200,000 bond and \$1,225,000 from the district's capital reserve fund, will support enhancing safety and security, expanding academic opportunities, and preserving and improving facilities to meet the needs of our children, now and into the future. **As the new debt will replace existing expiring debt, the bond will be tax levy neutral with no additional cost to taxpayers.** Included in the plan is a newly constructed science learning center, at the Jr./Sr. High School, with four science classrooms and a marine wet lab, featuring our coral reef project. In addition, a wing of the building will be reconstructed to support STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.)

To learn more about the projects at each of the schools, please attend our bond forum on November 12th at 8 p.m. A voter information guide will also be mailed to all residents in early November, and full details may be found on the district website.

We have accomplished so much, but, as you can see, there is still so much more to do. On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish each of you a happy, healthy, and productive school year!

Sincerely,
Anthony Paolano
President, Board of Education



(front row) Board of Education members: Amelia Brogan, Anthony Paolano, Ingrid Wright (back row) Julie Starrett, Mark McAteer, Mark Freidberg, Janice Elkin.

District Goals Adopted

Instructional: To deepen teacher understanding in all disciplines of our current K-12 curricula and the Next Generation English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Social Studies C-3 Framework as we prepare for full implementation in the 2020-21 school year. To further develop the K-12 literacy continuum, incorporating an articulated skills progression, clear student learning targets, and common academic vocabulary across all disciplines. To expand and implement continued K-12 research experiences providing students with greater opportunities to engage in authentic inquiry, design, and presentation. To continue to expand and enhance the middle-level experience for students in grades 5-8 through best practices in teaming and cross disciplinary connections, with an emphasis on the unique needs of the adolescent learner.

Technology: To continue evaluating and enhancing the integration of technology to support student-centered learning in collaborative learning environments and redesigned instructional spaces. To establish a digital and media literacy continuum including an articulated skills progression, coding, and digital citizenship.

Health, Wellness, and Safety: To continue evaluating and enhancing our approach to social-emotional well-being by teaching self-awareness, good decision-making, and strengthening and cultivating healthy relationships between and among our students and the wider school community.

Facilities: To address the district's security, academic, and infrastructure needs through the proposal to the community of a bond referendum in the fall of 2019.

Finance: To develop a budget which balances the programmatic needs of the district with the constraints of the tax cap and rising costs while also ensuring stability and long-term financial health.

Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . .



Scholar Artist Awards

Scholar Artist Awards Long Island Arts Alliance (LIAA): Congratulations to three CSH seniors; **Siyu Lei** (Scholar Artist Media Arts), **Katherine Tuohy** (Scholar Artist Dance) and **Serena Li** (Award of Merit Visual Arts). Siyu and Katherine will each have a full-page Newsday article feature this year. They were honored at the *Tilles Center* on September 11th, and at the Board of Education meeting in October. For more than a decade, *LIAA's Scholar-Artist Awards* program has recognized students judged to be "the best of the best" on Long Island in both academics and in the arts. □



National Hispanic Award

College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program honored **Timothy Louie** (Grade 12) who has been identified as one of the top 2.5% of Hispanic and Latino students that took the PSAT in their junior year. Congratulations Timothy, joined here by Principal, Dr. Bolan and his Guidance Counselor, Ms. Friedland. □

CSHL Partners For the Future

Congratulations to **Elyse Schetty** who was chosen to participate in the CSH Laboratory Partners for the Future Program for the 2019-2020 school year. Each year the program selects a limited number of seniors to participate who show a strong interest and academic strength in biology or computer sciences, from public and private high schools on Long Island. Students are nominated by the faculty from their respective high schools. The nominees must submit a written application and are chosen by a CSH Laboratory mentor after a personal interview process. Students accepted into this very selective program get the opportunity to work with a world class scientist doing cutting edge research in the field of Molecular and Genomic Biology. This year, 14 students were selected from Long Island. Elyse will be mentored by Shaina Lu, a graduate student in the Watson School of Biological Sciences, in Dr. Anthony Zador's lab. Elyse will be focusing on the meta-analysis of spatial gene expression in the primary motor cortex of mouse brain. □



Debate Awards

Congratulations to Debate Team winners: Andrew Khanin, Ariana Theodoris, & Cate Torrey, who scored major wins at the first Long Island Forensic Association Debate tournament of the year held at Half Hollow Hills East on Sept. 21st. Junior, Andrew Khanin, won a half-qualification to the New York State Championships by taking 5th place in JV Lincoln-Douglas Debate out of a field of forty-seven. The Novice Public Forum team of sophomores (Ariana Theodoris and Cate Torrey) won 9th place trophies out of a field of seventeen two-person Novice Public Forum teams. □



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"A Commitment to Excellence"

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New Appointment

Assistant Principal Jr./Sr. High

Joining the staff this fall at the Jr./Sr. High School, is Dr. Charles Benvenuto, as the new Assistant Principal, grades 10-12. Dr. Benvenuto joins us from the West Babylon School District, where he was Coordinator of Social Studies K-8. Prior to that, Dr. Benvenuto was Department Chair of ELA and Social Studies 6-8. While taking on these leadership roles, he continued his career as a Social Studies teacher 2002-2019. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in History with a Certification in Secondary Education and his Master's in Education at Stony Brook. He then earned his Doctorate at St. John's University in Educational Administration and Supervision. Principal, Dr. Jim Bolen, shared, "After a lengthy search for an assistant principal candidate, we are thrilled to have Dr. Benvenuto on staff. Chuck impressed us all with his curriculum acumen and his wonderful ability to connect with the students through the interview process. I believe we have a fantastic addition to our building leadership team and I foresee great things in store for our students, staff and community with Dr. Benvenuto as one of our assistant principals." Dr. Benvenuto shared, "I am thrilled to be joining the Cold Spring Harbor Schools family. It has been a wonderful beginning of the school year and my career here at Cold Spring Harbor. I look forward to working with Dr. Bolen, Ms. Waters, the staff and students to make this a great school year!" Welcome to the CSH family Dr. Benvenuto! □

CHANGING THE CLASSROOM

Flexible Furniture

The New Classroom

Starting two years ago, the roll-out of "flexible furniture" began to change the template of standard "row" seating into collaborative face-to-face work environments. Just as corporate America work-spaces have changed with the removal of cubicles and corner offices, and coffee shops are packed with couches and communal tables, school classrooms have also changed. Thanks to District funding and the generous donations from the CSH Educational Foundation, the expansion of *Flexible Furniture* has created *new learning spaces* for teachers and students in each building to reflect more flexible, student-centered and collaborative classroom designs. The goal? To transform these learning environments to ensure that they enhance the educational experience for our children.



Goosehill Primary...



Lloyd Harbor School...

With the greater availability of Chromebooks there is no longer a need for desktop computers facing walls in computer labs with backs to each other. The beauty of flexible furniture spaces is that they can be designated for quiet studying or more collaborative group work. Seating can now be a choice, whether it's a couch, standing desk, rolling swivel chair with cup holders, bean bags, and more. Even Goosehill has low table seating with padded recliners, balance-ball, wooble and ergo stools, or a simple seat on the floor at a low table. Bright colored chairs also allow for easy student groupings. The classrooms now allow for greater collaboration, a more relaxed feel, and the ability to move, bounce, or swing your feet on a bar for students who have difficulty sitting still comfortably. Both comfort and movement have allowed for more productivity and focus.

Students and teachers love the choices and collaboration flexible seating yields. The success of the districts incorporation of flexible seating attracted the attention of the Long Island University President, Kimberly Cline, who came to visit CSH to see it firsthand. This visit resulted in plans for the university to reproduce one of our classrooms as a model for undergraduate education students to learn from, and how to teach in this new 21st century learning flexible seating environment. In the words of 5th grade teacher, Ms. Conroy, "Flexible seating means flexible thinking!" □

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West Side School...



Jr./Sr. High school...

Back to school reports from Our Principals

Goosehill Report

From Lynn Herschlein...

At Goosehill, we welcomed the youngest learners in our district! Over the summer teachers worked hard, preparing inquiry projects for our new STEAM Lab and exciting new curriculum experiences for our students. Sixteen new families joined us this fall, and it was wonderful to meet everyone at our New Family Orientation and Open House, which helped children feel ready and excited for the first day of school. While there are always a few tears shed on the first day, for the most part, students entered very happily. One first grader was surprised at how long the day felt! Yes, it's a long day filled with community-building activities making students feel welcome, safe, and connected. We are holding Bus and Charter meetings, ensuring that students remember to treat one another with kindness in every part of the school. Tasks as simple as putting away one's lunchbox are all new to Goosehill students, and there is a lot to learn. Our Spirit Day, Welcoming Tea for parents, and our annual Welcome Back Picnic for families all serve to bring everyone together in so many positive ways. Thank you to the GPFA for all their support, and the staff for the tremendous amount of preparation and planning to be ready to open the doors on Sept. 3rd. We are excited to share the CSH Educational Foundation's donation to support STEAM learning at Goosehill. Our new indoor/outdoor STEAM Lab will provide our students with hands-on experiences challenging them to be creative thinkers using science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Already students have started experimenting with pre-coding materials, and even built a bowling alley and DJ booth with oversized building blocks! It's been incredible to witness such collaboration and creativity. I look forward to a wonderful school year ahead. □



Welcome Back Picnic



Goosehill Picnic: The annual "welcome back picnic" was held on September 13th to the delight of both students and parents. Bounce houses, music, pizza and fun were enjoyed by all. Definitely a family favorite event! Thank you GPFA!

THE FOUNDATION

Impacting Education in CSH



Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Kurt Simon, Superintendent, Robert C. Fenter, Foundation President, Tara Belfi, Executive Director Instructional & Administrative Technology, Joseph Monastero, and Board of Education member, Ingrid Wright

The CSH Educational Foundation

Making a difference...

At the June 11th Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education accepted the generous donation in the amount of \$225,000 from the CSH Educational Foundation for the purpose of “transforming classrooms” during the 2019-2020 school year. This was the largest single grant donation to date from the Foundation. The ongoing support from donations raised, in combination with District funds, has had an extraordinary impact on the education of our students. The Foundation also launched a new “Parent Partnership Program” this year, and the “Youth Ambassador Program” continues to expand. On behalf of the Board of Education, Administration, and the community, we thank you for your continued support and dedication to the students and staff of Cold Spring Harbor School District. □

STEAM Lab

Goosehill School

The ability to transform a science room into a playground of imagination has students running to enter the STEAM Lab at Goosehill! The excitement and energy are contagious as students rotate stations to explore early engineering design feats. The bulletin board as you enter states, “*Science Time: What Will You Build?*” There are so many choices, be it the oversized foam or wooden building blocks, a Rig Ama-Jig, Sand Table, marble & magnet wall, giant Lite-Bright table, and more! Kids in Ms. DeRops class were so proud to show off their creations, which included a wooden airplane, a skeet ball course, a corn hole game, and a giant crane assembled with screws and moving parts! Witnessing deep concentration, combined with laughter and fun, was quite a sight. All of this was made possible due a generous grant by the CSH Education Foundation last spring for \$29,000 specifically allocated to build a STEAM Lab. Thank you to the Foundation, for providing these hands-on experiences that challenge students to be creative thinkers as it relates to science, technology, engineering and math. □



Back to school reports from Our Principals

reports from Our Principals

Jr./Sr. High School Report

From Dr. Jim Bolen...

I owe a debt of gratitude to the elementary principals for preparing them at the lower levels, as I get to reap the benefits! On September 3rd we officially opened the doors for a new school year, though for many of our almost 900 students, school started well before that. The opening of school starts early here, as fields were bustling with sports and the schools were humming with preparation and professional development. We had our orientations, our annual BBQ, and upper-classmen helping younger students navigate schedules, relax fears, open lockers, and offer general advice. Over Superintendent Conference Days we did a tremendous amount of work on the new academic standards with big changes coming. The 2021 U.S. History Regents is very different now, and the shift serves as a touchstone for what is to come. During opening week we held the first of our Code of Conduct meetings, class assemblies, reviewed DASA, vaping, attendance, and held our annual Safe Driving presentation for all seniors and parents. The Safe Driving program is a powerful night where you can hear a pin drop, and tears are hard to hold back. New students were also matched up with a "buddy" student to help them acclimate to their new campus and community and meet for a pizza and ice cream social. The Junior High held their Team Days off-site at Brookville Nature Center for 7th grade and Caumsett for the 8th grade. Part of our SIT (School Improvement Team) initiative this year will be to highlight our core values that the team helped to create last year with parent, student and teacher input. We will be presenting these values to the students in a roll-out plan that we will devise this fall in our SIT team. Thank you to the Board of Education, administration, the entire staff, and the PTG and parent community for all your support and dedication to our children. I look forward to seeing everyone on the fields at Homecoming. We are all excited for the upcoming school year! □



Assistant Principal grades 7-9, Joey Waters; Principal, Dr. James Bolen; Assistant Principal grades 10-12, Dr. Charles Benvenuto.



"The opening of school starts early here, as fields were bustling with sports and the schools were humming with preparation and professional development."



Promethean Boards

Expansion at all the schools

If you told recent CSH alumni that SMARTBoards were outdated, and now there is a new world of Promethean Boards, they would not only be surprised, but would ask “*What’s a Promethean Board?*” One thing is for sure, technology changes very fast! SMARTBoards were amazing new technology with projectors hanging from the ceiling that powered oversized installed computer white boards that could magically draw and erase. Today, Promethean Boards no longer need a projector, they no longer need to be installed, they are freestanding interactive and touchscreen boards that allow 180-degree visibility and no longer cast shadows. Together with the roll-out of flexible furniture, a Promethean Board is no longer stationary in the front of the class, but can roll on wheels and has essentially “de-fronted” the classroom supporting a more student-centered environment. Teachers can stand in the back of the room, and using their Chromebook or iPad can write out (or cast) lessons from any distance. Students have the ability to do the same right from their seat with their own devices. This new technology supports learning across all curriculum areas.

The use of interactive Boards in schools has created a significant change in teaching. Executive Director of Technology and Instruction, Joseph Monastero, shared, “*If you consider that the average person understands only about 15% of what a TV remote can do on your TV, Promethean Boards are a continual journey of technology and understanding.*” The staff for professional development training has been so receptive, that they formed their own collegial circles outside of school time to continue teaching! The makers of Promethean have been so impressed by our staff use of this tool, that they have implemented our suggestions for improvement and made revisions to the newest boards!

Last year, a pilot program began to test out the Promethean Boards in each building. To date the district now has 42 at the Jr./Sr. High, 6 at Goosehill, 16 at Lloyd Harbor, and 12 at West Side. Thanks to District funding approved by the Board of Education, donations from the CSH Education Foundation, and administration, CSH school district is providing its students and staff the equipment and classroom settings that are cutting edge in education today! □



Promethean Board at Lloyd Harbor school...



Teaching KidOYO on the Promethean Board at West Side school...

KidOYO

Computer Coding

The name is not only catchy and fun, it has students eager to learn coding! Students in grades 4-6 and 8 will begin a study and experience with coding that will provide them with expert support as well as the opportunity to explore various languages of code, all in an effort to deepen their learning of computer programming. Teachers/faculty learned how to use this program at “Summer Camp” at Stony Brook University through professional development supported by Stony Brook graduate students. Throughout the year, students will submit their work to Stony Brook which is then reviewed by graduate students, who give feedback for improvement, or a badge for a successful submission.

KidOYO launched in 2006 as an educational initiative to test the earliest ages at which kids could engage in a meaningful real-world entrepreneurial learning process with skills that were rarely accessible in school-based classrooms. Young minds were hungry to embrace computational thinking, making math concepts move and bringing stories to life through interactive design. The game Minecraft was influencing young learners to engage in coding using Java programming language. KidOYO recognized this trend and collaborated with Minecraft which soon resulted in an explosion of student activity on KidOYO learning platforms online, setting the charge and redefining future programming skills. KidOYO is one of the district goals



adopted this year, and the implementation and roll-out is proving to be a great success! And although it is not new to elementary students, it is now a full year commitment to learn coding, rather than before/after school clubs or intermittent technology lessons.

In basic terms, coding is problem solving. In order to understand it, students must notate all their work and overcome road blocks and challenges. The beauty is that they can all work at their own pace.

Our staff not only visited off-site districts to explore and learn, but they brought their knowledge back leading dedicated workshops at the Creative Learning Lab at Lloyd Harbor School during Superintendent’s Days. Thank you to trainers Mr. Monastero, Ms. Wetzel, Mr. Healy, Ms. O’Donnell, Ms. Fraiberg, and Ms. Diehl. Kids are excited to start earning their badges! □

Back to school reports from Our

ports from Our Principals

Lloyd Harbor Report

From Valerie Massimo...

We opened our doors to 17 new students this fall, after a wonderful orientation in August during which student ambassadors were proud to be tour guides. As always, the faculty was busy with summer preparations and professional development. On Superintendent's Conference Day, rather than the traditional faculty meeting, faculty and staff worked collaboratively at "station activities" to discuss school and district goals, explore flexible learning spaces, and participate in mindfulness activities. This was done to emulate the work that the teachers do with the students in support of best practices in teaching and learning. On the first day of school, our mascot Leo the Lion happily greeted students with hugs and high fives as they stepped off the buses. Second graders were led into the cafeteria for an orientation, and thanks to the efforts of the PTG, the unpacking of supplies soon began in the classrooms. Every grade level met for a "town meeting" and received LHS folders which outlined the "core values" of Honesty, Inclusivity, Kindness, Empathy, and Respect. Supporting lessons will be implemented through integration of our SEL (Social Emotional Learning) curriculum. We continue to share the weekly Words of Wisdom each morning on our LHTV live broadcast, where student council members lead the charge. The summer reading program was also a huge success, with student postcards displayed in the hallways as we prepared for our school-wide celebration. Again, thank you to the PTG for all your help and support. And thank you to the entire staff for their dedication to the students and all the work that goes into preparing for a successful and smooth opening. We are all looking forward to a great year! ☐



"On the first day of school, our mascot Leo the Lion happily greeted students with hugs and high fives as they stepped off the buses."



Back to school reports from Our

School reports from Our Principals

West Side Report

From Alison Hazut...

What a wonderful beginning to the start of my first year as Principal of West Side! I was honored to witness the “ringing of the bell on the first day, accompanied by former veteran Principal, Mr. Ted Hilton and former teacher, Scott Bowden. It was amazing to see and hear the entire gym quieted during this special and historic tradition. Thank you to the PTG for distributing healthy goodie bags to the staff and having all of the school supplies readied in the classroom. While visiting classrooms with school Psychologist, Ms. Latham, to speak about respect and diversity, one 2nd grade child exclaimed “This is just like what we learned at Goosehill – it’s like our word, HERO. H is for honesty, E is for empathy, R is for respect and O is for open-hearted (the class joyfully chanted)!!!” What a magical moment to experience that continuity in our schools. We held town hall meetings with 5th and 6th graders in which teachers shared learning expectations and class routines, and the 6th graders shared words of wisdom with their 5th grade peers. We launched the continuation of West Side’s 6th grade service-learning project HERO (Helping Everyone Reach Out). Sustainability and empowering 6th graders to recognize our younger students who show Grit were among the most popular ideas for projects. A few students who are passionate about protecting our environment have been respectfully reminding parents to turn off their engines on the pick-up line during dismissal! In order for me to learn about each child at West Side, we’ve engaged in a few “get to know you” activities in which the children have shared one sentence that best describes them. I’ve also visited classrooms to read the book, *Why Am I Me?* by Paige Britt, Sean Qualls and Selina Alko which celebrates humanity and diversity. It encourages us to imagine a world where there is no you or me, only we. It’s been a pleasure meeting the students, getting to know the staff, welcoming our seven new families, and learning about this very historic school. I am looking forward to a fantastic year ahead! □



“What a wonderful beginning to the start of my first year as Principal of West Side!”



Science Friday

Science Friday might be new to West Side, but it’s actually been a radio program on NPR for 25 years! Hosted by scientist, Ira Flatow, the show aims to bring science topics to the dinner tables across America. Mr. Flatow teaches that science changes because our knowledge changes. The fun part is that science is debatable! So, 5th grade teacher, Ms. Gerver and Library Media Specialist, Ms. Fraiberg, have welcomed *Science Friday* into their classroom, where students are encouraged to ask themselves “What are the science topics that interest you? Afterall, you are all budding scientists.” Students will research topics they wonder about, and share their findings with their classmates and families. *Science Friday* sounds like a lot of science FUN! □



COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

75 Goose Hill Road
Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. 11724

www.csh.k12.ny.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION

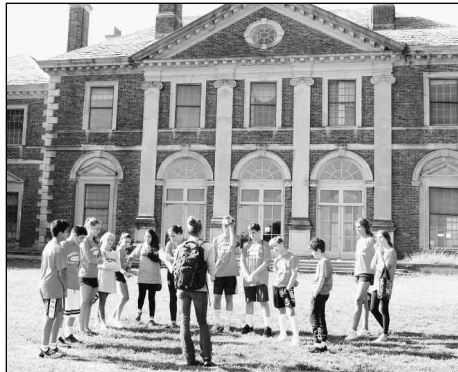
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Jr. High Challenge Day at Caumsett Park...

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The New York State **School Tax Relief (STAR)** program provides a school property tax reduction for **ALL** "primary residence" property owners. Suffolk residents may call 631-351-3308 for more information; Nassau residents, 516-571-2490.

Jr. High Challenge Days

Both the 7th and 8th graders had the opportunity to participate in "Challenge Day" programs in September. This has become a long-standing tradition for the Junior High and a beloved and emotional event for all involved. Eighth grade continued their Challenge Day visit at Caumsett Park, while 7th graders tried a new location this year at Brookville BOCES. This special day hosts a very unique and supportive learning environment. Students participated in ice-breaker games and were placed in carefully selected groups meant to take kids out of their comfort zones,



breaking down cliques, barriers and creating new friendships. In addition, students worked on team building and problem-solving skills. Challenges included activities such as *Cooperative*

Games "icebreakers," *Initiatives* "problem solving tasks," and *Low Ropes Course* "physical challenge." All groups were facilitated by BOCES trained teachers as well as co-supervised by a member of the CSH faculty. It truly is an amazing day, where students learn that team communication, not frustration, led to completing each task. Eighth graders were taken on a hike at Caumsett, where groups were left at different drop points with maps and compasses in hand, challenging themselves to make it back to base camp. We are very grateful to the staff at the Caumsett State Historic Park, and the Brookville BOCES Environmental Education Center for these fabulous days. □



Mark your calendars

Peter and the Starcatcher, the Tony-winning play that upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up (a.k.a. Peter Pan), will be performed by the **CSH Senior High Drama Club** on October 25, 26, and 27 at the Performing Arts Center, directed by Mr. Marc Beja. Then, on November 23rd and 24th the **West Side School Theater Association** will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's *G2K Cinderella*, also at the Performing Arts Center, directed by Ms. Jessica Beja. Please come out and support the arts!