**VOLUME 38, NUMBER 4** 

## A REPORT ON CUR SCHOOLS

**SPRING 2015** 

### The Google Classroom

What is a Google classroom? At the March 10th Board of Education meeting, Social Studies teacher, Ms. Danielle Beach, and Assistant Principal, Joseph Monastero, explained just that. It is an online learning environment that allows for the creation of a technologically immersed curriculum, an abundance of collaboration, and ability to differentiate with ease. It is not an online course, the students report to class as normal. Yet, it allows a teacher to create a classroom online for students to access from any device that has internet connection. Students check online to see the assignments (which provide appropriate levels of challenge for all students). Distribution is conducted electronically and only the teacher and student know who received each assignment. Teachers create an assignment by gathering links and creating a way for students to answer questions or convey their knowledge on the subject matter. Students use their research skills and knowledge to work independently, and at their own pace online. They can review the material as many times as they like since the classroom is web based. Virtual field trips can even be created where tours can be taken through Rome, for example, while studying the Roman Empire. Using Google Docs the students can write an essay and then electronically collaborate with peers on the project. The peers can make edits after reviewing the essay using a rubric previously discussed in class. Then the final essays are shared with the teacher who makes further edits and suggestions on how to improve their writing. Students can



"The Google Classroom is exceptionally versatile, and can easily be used in all classrooms"

save individual digital portfolios of all their work. Storage is unlimited! YouTube video summary links on various subjects can be watched as a supplement to notes and class activities when reviewing for a test. There are virtual bulletin boards where students can save and accumulate information (similar to the Pinterest concept). Ms. Beach is presently piloting this program. She had her students take a survey to share their opinions of the Google Classroom so far. The major criticism of the service was the students were not reminded of upcoming assignments unless they logged into

their accounts. So, using Google Calendar, notifications were created and sent to their cell phones via text message that inform them of any upcoming assignments, changes, or cancellations. Ms. Beach shared, "The positive feedback is students truly appreciate that there is no way for them to lose their work. With every letter that is typed, a student's work is saved. They also love the field trips and seeing achievements first hand." The Google Classroom is exceptionally versatile, and can easily be used in all classrooms.

#### Save The Date

West Side 225th Anniversary Celebration June 5th

(West Side Alumni Day on June 6th)

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## Chasing the IVY's

#### Frank Bruni

Director of Guidance, Andrew Rosenberg, was privileged to introduce NY Times columnist and bestselling author, Mr. Frank Bruni, for his first book signing at a high school hosted by CSH. Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania, proved to be a valuable discussion for both students and parents. Neighboring districts came by as well, to listen, learn, and ask questions. Mr. Bruni shared, "Over the last few decades, Americans have turned college admissions into a terrifying and occasionally devastating process, preceded



by test prep, tutors, all sorts of stratagems, all kinds of rankings, and a conviction among too many young people that their futures will be determined and their worth established by which schools say yes and which say no. That belief is wrong. It's cruel. And WHERE YOU GO IS NOT WHO YOU'LL BE!" He explained "why," giving students and their parents a new perspective on this intense competition as well as a path out of the anxiety

that it provokes. It was interesting to learn that non-Ivy League degree holders are not limited from attaining corner offices, governors' mansions, or the most prestigious academic and scientific grants. Through statistics, surveys, and stories of successful people who didn't attend the most exclusive schools, he demonstrated that many kinds of colleges can all serve as ideal springboards, and have less impact on identity, success and happiness than many suppose. Bruni's point is ...the best education is less a matter of getting into the best school, than of making the best of wherever you go.  $\square$ 

## Collage Artist Michael Albert

Over a two-day period at the end of March, collage artist, Michael Albert, was invited to teach students at a full-day workshop "the art of collage." Bags filled with

cereal and cracker boxes, and cardboard labels of all kinds were dumped and picked through for the perfect cut-outs. When Mr. Albert first began his love of collage, he challenged himself to see if he could disguise the product in the end result. However, this proved to be impossible as



name brands were so recognizable and famous in color and label, you just knew it was *Cheerios* or *Tide*, for example. Sometimes, the collection of materials alone can lead to a collage taking over a year to complete. His collage of the numerals in the number Pi took the longest to complete, taking four years! The students learned that a pair of scissors and an idea can result in a beautiful piece of art.  $\square$ 



## It's an App World

Last summer, elementary principals, Kurt Simon and Valerie Massimo, were introduced to an App called LightSail at a conference. Upon further investigation, the Board of Education agreed to pilot the program at West Side and Lloyd Harbor to the 6th grade. LightSail apps were downloaded to the 6th grade iPad cart which was donated to the schools by the CSH Educational Foundation. The aim of the LightSail app is to give students the digital ability to be more interactive with their independent reading books as each book contains imbedded assessments and a number of communication features. The goal at the beginning was to introduce students to some of LightSail's features and gain confidence using the app. Students have the ability, using their own logins and passwords, to continue reading at home and track their progress. Currently, LightSail is working on making their app available on portable devices other than iPads. If a student does not have access to an iPad in their home, iPads are available to loan overnight. Last year, LightSail was recognized by Forbes Magazine as "one of ten companies revolutionizing entrepreneurship" and by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as a "breakthrough tool for teachers." CSH is one of the first school districts on Long Island to pilot a LightSail program. Students can select from a wide range of books, at all levels, and can leave messages to their teacher if they want. LightSail helps with vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, timemanagement and accountability. The entire program is Common Core aligned, and the beauty of the program, is that teachers do not have to read or know every book. Mr. Arloff, who is piloting this program at West Side, shared, "The teachers can rate student answers based upon examples, and rationales provided by the app. Immediate feedback is provided for students; the potential is endless."  $\square$ 

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#### Goosehill . . . Goosehill . . .

## Author Visit Laurence Pringle

Goosehill: Mr. Pringle loves bringing his zest for nature and writing to school children. He shared, "When I was a kid, growing up in farm country, I had two strong interests: reading, and having adventures in nature. I loved to explore outdoors, roaming woods and fields, and investigating ponds.



I never dreamed that a person could have a career that called for lots of reading, and learning about wild animals. I never thought I would write a book! However, I was lucky enough to begin a career writing children's nonfiction books. To date, I have written 114 books!" Writing takes a lot of research and "It's hard work," he said. The kids loved hearing about his adventures with spiders, frogs, bats, and even scorpions. He showed the students the importance of artwork in books, its beauty and its placement to coincide with the text. Mr. Pringle has traveled the world in search of his fascinating stories. Thank you to (parent) Mrs. Melendez and the Cultural Arts Committee for arranging the visit and the book signing.

## Dr. Suess's Birthday

On March 4th Goosehill students and staff honored *Read across America Day* celebrating Dr. Suess's birthday by "dropping and reading" for 20 uninterrupted minutes. All students were invited to wear "read a t-shirt" and they were very proud to display them! "Reading is one of the most important and beneficial activities in which parents can engage with their children," said Mrs. Herschlein.



And in the words of Dr. Suess, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." □



St. Patrick's Day at Goosehill: Thank you to Mr. Tozer (Emma's dad) for playing his bagpipes for the children as they entered school on St. Patricks Day! The children were delighted to hear the sounds of the bagpipes and to be able to see-up close how this incredible instrument is played.



## 100 Days of School

Goosehill: This landmark day for Kindergarteners is always a special celebration and an opportunity to recognize all the growth the students have made in their first 100 days. Mrs. Herschlein stated, "Thank you to Mrs. Kotzky and all the K teachers for organizing such an upbeat and exciting experience." The sing-a-long was truly interactive where the children jumped up with joy for the vegetables and fruits they loved, then collapsing in their seats for those they didn't! They sang in sign language and animal sounds, and so many clever tunes one couldn't help but smile and laugh. Their wonderfully creative "100-day" projects were proudly on display in the classrooms after the assembly for the parents.  $\square$ 



Goosehill Indoor Recess Fun: The long cold winter of snow storm months led to a winter season of indoor recess for Goosehill school. Thankfully, the students had an ample supply of games and fun, including building blocks, Hungry Hippo, Legos, Mr. Potato Head, knock-hockey, and more!

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#### Honors . . . Honors . . .



• Character Recognition Awards: Recognizing good character in our students is a wonderful initiative at the Jr./Sr. high school by Principal Jay Matuk. Beginning last spring, faculty members can recommend up to three students who best exemplify the attributes selected for the quarter. They are then invited, with their parents, to a brief ceremony honoring good character, and awarded certificates by the staff. The goal is to help promote a positive school environment essential to the healthy development of young adults, and to recognize role models. On February 10th students were recognized for the attributes of perseverance and resiliency. Congratulations to the second quarters 27 winning role models for displaying great character. The heartfelt stories told by the teachers expressed great pride in nominating these students. Many acknowledged, "We learn more from these students than they learn from us." Mr. Homer said, "What you do when nobody is looking demonstrates the strength of your character." Congratulations to all.



- Art Honor: Summer Hayes (9th grade) was honored as one of Long Island's Best artists in the Heckscher Museum: LIB Young Artist at the Heckscher Museum competition, along with 80 other chosen students across Long Island for her Digital Illustration, entitled Guardian of War. The following students were also selected to represent CSHHS for the juried Long Island's Best Competition; Alexa Chisholm, Sam Gelberg, Emily Johnston, Dante Polsinelli, Lindsey Rothenberg, Madison Gagne, Jonathan Harouche, Felipe Jiminez, Anna Linekin, Francesca Polsinelli, and Ava Xu.
- Music Honors: The High School Chorus and Orchestra traveled to Colonial Williamsburg for the *Music* in the Parks Festival competition. Both groups won trophies in their

- division, and they also won best cello section in the High School Orchestra category; best overall instrumental ensemble of the weekend and the distinction of Festival Grand Champions.
- FLES Poster Contest winners: Alexandra Pultz (4th grade) was the First place recipient at West Side for the celebration of World Language month. Teacher, Senora Tassani, thanked all of our fourth graders for their participation: second place went to C.J. Reilly and third place went to Matt Donaldson. Lloyd Harbor teacher, Jennifer Coniglio, shared, "This year's theme was "Un Puente al Futuro" (A Bridge to the Future)." and she congratulated the Lloyd Harbor winners: First place Eden Shahar, second place Hannah Van Son and third place Anna Maria Fernandez. Congratulations to all!
- Student Artists' Caitlin Hooks, Hayfa Stutman, Ava Xu (all grade 10), Belle Flower (grade K) and Justin Jones (grade 1): Their artwork was showcased at the *Colors of Long Island Student Expressions* exhibit at the Long Island Museum at Stony Brook Feb. 27 – April 26. This annual exhibit is an opportunity for students across Long Island to dis-



# Summer at Stony Brook

Joshua Fagin and Andrew McGee, two junior Research students in Mr. Jaak Raudsepp's class have secured summer internships at Stony Brook University. They are both in their third year of the Independent Research Program at the high school. Josh attended "Chemistry Research Day" at Stony Brook with Mr. Raudsepp earlier this year, where students viewed hundreds of posters hoping to find ideas that piqued their interests. Josh's field of interest is antibiotic resistance, and he had a chance to engage in conversation with graduate student, Chendi Gu, who studies with Dr. Peter Tonge, head of The Tonge Lab. Josh was thrilled to be chosen and accepted to study with Ms. Gu as his mentor. Fellow student, Drew McGee, holds his interest in Physics research, and self-advocated to secure an internship studying high energy neutrinos on a project called Ice Cube; an observatory in Antarctica. Through a little webdetective work, Drew found one professor, Dr. Kiryluk, at Stony Brook, who was involved in the Ice Cube Project. With great persistence, he pursued securing an internship, which came through for him as well. Both boys will be living at Stony Brook for the summer to fulfill these positions. Well done boys!

play their artwork. In total 236 works from 122 public and private schools were chosen. Art teachers are allowed to submit up to three pieces from grades K-12. Stony Brook's Long Island Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate dedicated to American history and art as they relate to Long Island.

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#### Honors . . . Honors . . .

• **Keith Miller** (High School English teacher), was awarded the Williams College *George Olmsted, Jr., Class* 



of 1924 Prize for excellence in secondary school teaching. Part of the prize includes a \$5000 award to CSHHS! Each year, Williams seniors nominate

high school teachers who played influential roles in their lives and learning, and a committee of faculty, staff, and students choose the winners. Mr. Miller will be an honored guest of Williams College on Commencement weekend in June.

• Kevin Purrone, School Counselor, is also an active composer of classical music. His piano score to the silent movie, "The Goddess," will be pre-



sented at The
Metropolitan
Museum of Art,
New York. The
exhibition,
"China: Through
the Looking
Glass," (Wong
Kar Wai, artistic
director), will

incorporate Dr. Purrone's composition in a film montage. This international event will be in New York City from May 4th through August 16th.

• Kathleen Fristensky (High School Spanish teacher), was honored for her volunteer work at Hospice in Suffolk County. She was invited by Suffok County Legislator, Dr. William Spencer, to be a representative at the 4th annual Women's fair held at the Dolan Center. Ms.



Fristensky has been an active volunteer both at Hospice House and doing bereavement work behind the scenes. No stranger to helping others, she recently returned

from Nicaragua, as a volunteer with *The Students for 60,000* organization which builds houses and teaches school lessons to needy families.

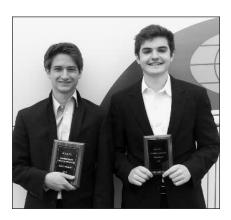
• Myra Georgiou (Jr./Sr. High School Family & Consumer Sciences teacher) was awarded *Teacher of the Year* by the Long.

Year by the Long Island Family & Consumer Sciences Professional Award for outstanding contributions to the field! Ms. Georgiou was also honored on March 20th at the

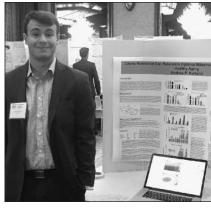


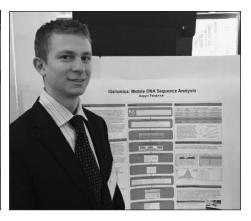
Culinary Institute in Riverhead. Her research article was entitled, "A Case for Mandating Personal Finance in High School."

 Music honors: Seven high school music students were selected to the 2015 Tilles Festival Band Ensemble, with a concert performance held on April 26th. The Festival Band is made up of members of the LIU Post Wind Symphony and selected musicians representing 26 different high schools across Long Island. They will be part of a large ensemble of approximately 150 players. Conductors, James McRoy, from LIU and internationally renowned composer, Rossano Galante, were joined by students: Benjamin Basil (percussion), Christine Collins (flute I), Allison Grey (trombone II), Alec Israeli (clarinet II), Matthew Rossmann (baritone saxophone), Tyler Seccafico (clarinet III), John Sepanski (bassoon I).



- CSHHS Speech and Debate Team qualified twelve students for the April 2015 NY State Championships in Speech and Debate, held at SUNY Oneonta. The student qualifiers were: Matthew Bastis, Sabrina Bergsten, Tamana Bhatia, Brendan Campbell, Niall Coffey, Matti Gellman, Gus Kasper, Erwin Li, Constantine Markotsis, Timothy Sherlock, Owen Toomey, Zachary Wang, and Aidan **Coffey.** At the NY State Championships, the largest such event in league history, Gus Kasper was a Double Octofinalist in Lincoln-Douglas Debate ("Top 16" in the State) and Brendan Campbell was a Semifinalist in Model Congress.
- Community Service: At the Jr./Sr. High School, the Locks of Love Club raised over \$4000 at their first ever Game night this year, where teams competed against each other playing Family Feud!





• Seniors Andrew Kurland and Aspyn Palatnick entered their research projects in the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair, the regional fair for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Over 400 of Long Island's top research students presented their research in one of eighteen categories. Both Andrew and Aspyn finished in the top 25 percent of the projects and were invited to return; Andrew finished in 4th place in the Biochemistry category and Aspyn finished in 3rd place in the Computer Science category.

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#### West Side . . . West Side . . .



• Community Service Kudos: West Side Student Council concluded their March Madness Sharpshooters Fundraiser tournament (held during Physical Education classes) for the Ronald McDonald House, which raised over \$2200! Director of Development, Mr. David Rosner, accepted the donation of behalf of West Side School at the morning assembly on April 20th.



West Side Scrabble Club: Ever since Principal Kurt Simon was young, he had a true love for the game of Scrabble. As an elementary teacher, he often incorporated the game into his classroom teaching when possible. Over the course of this long winter season of indoor recess, Mr. Simon decided this was a great opportunity to begin a Scrabble club. A twenty minute recess proved to be not enough time. So, one day a week, 5th & 6th grade students can spend their entire lunch/recess period with their principal, and engage in a little friendly competition! The kids love it, and Mr. Simon hopes to expand the club and instill his love of the game in others.

## Hudson Taylor Athlete Ally

On March 11th, Hudson Taylor, founder and executive director of *Athlete Ally*, addressed grades 7-12 during two assemblies at the Jr./Sr. High School. During the day, Taylor also met in small groups with leaders of the student body, Mr. Homer's World of Health class, and the Gay-Straight Alliance and Natural Helpers clubs. That night, Taylor was the guest speaker at the *Code of Conduct* meeting for ath-



letes. He spoke about his experiences as an athlete, coach, and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) activist and straight ally. Hudson Taylor is a hall-of-fame, three-time NCAA All American wrestler, former coach at Columbia University, and founder of an organization dedicated to leading by example in athletics and in life. Hudson was inspired to start Athlete Ally when, during his years as a Theater major and wrestler at the University of Maryland, he realized the impact homophobic slurs can have on individuals and communities. Taylor began wearing an equality sticker on his headgear while wrestling and people began to ask what it stood for. He asked

students to take the *Athlete Ally Pledge*, a promise to lead by example and welcome everyone into the sporting community. In the days following Taylor's presentation, numerous Cold Spring Harbor students reached out to Taylor asking how to be more active leaders in the movement towards acceptance and awareness.



Umbrella Challenge: West Side's 6th Grade students painted umbrellas in the style of Surrealist artist, Rene' Magritte. Art Teacher/Dept. Chair, Mrs. McLaughlin challenged her students to create a room in one-point perspective on a canvas that is curved. The students utilized the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, value, color, texture and space) within a single painting while creating a scene with dream-like imagery. The results...magnificent!



## Grammy Nominee Jeremy Kittel

On Thursday, February 26th, 2014 Grammy nominee violinist and fiddler, Jeremy Kittel, along with mandolin virtuoso, Joshua Pinkham, performed at CSH Jr./Sr. High School. The senior high orchestra had the privilege of joining them on stage for a piece entitled Great Big Fiddle (written by Jeremy Kittel). The students practiced during workshops given throughout the day by Mr. Kittel. Thanks to the proceeds raised at last year's CFA Literary Luncheon, the Cultural Arts Committee was able to sponsor this event. All music students in grades 7-12 were invited to attend the 9th period performance. Thank you to music teacher, Tim Jenks, who worked with the students and Mr. Kittel during the workshops. This was truly a special treat. Mr. Kittel has been called "the best fiddler of the 21st century!" □

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#### Lloyd Harbor . . . Lloyd Harbor . . .



#### LEND A PAW

Lloyd Harbor: Kudos to two Lloyd Harbor students in Mrs. O'Donnell's 5th grade class at Lloyd Harbor. Giovanna Ciampa and Mary Theresa Nemazi wanted to help a local animal shelter. Thus was born the Lend a Paw project. The girls met with a representative from Little Shelter (in Huntington), and they put together lists of items that the shelter needs. They spoke with each fifth grade class about how everyone can help. The girls even designed a Lend a Paw logo, complete with all of the fifth graders' signatures, which was used on flyers and t-shirts. A very generous donor purchased shirts for the entire grade! Food, laundry detergent, dog treats, supplies, pet toys and more came in by the boxful, and in acknowledgment for their efforts, the students were paid a visit by the Little Shelter. Great job, girls!



Lloyd Harbor: Principal Massimo shares a bite with 6th grade student council officers during her monthly "Lunch with the Principal" hour where concerns are raised and ideas are shared.

## Road Trip Challenge

Lloyd Harbor: The Lloyd Harbor Road Trip is a challenge offered to students in grades 2-4 in Mr. Toscano's Physical Education classes. The idea behind it is to choose a place on the map (this year was California), and then travel there based on the physical activity of the students. Children are given a piece of paper with 3 sneakers on it. Each time they do 20 min of



activity outside of school they document it. Three sneakers are equal to 60 minutes of activity, and each page handed in is equal to 3 miles on the map. Outside of Mr. Toscano's and Mr. Lynch's office, you can find the map and all the colorful "sneakers across America" art. He said, "It took us a month and two days to reach California. Mrs. Terry's class won our first trip with 538 total miles. Way to go!



### Women in History

Lloyd Harbor 2nd graders celebrated Women's History Month in March by creating written essay projects. Students from Ms. Rivera's class proudly displayed their assignments in front of their bulletin board, where each student chose a woman that they admired because of the important work they did, or perhaps simply a woman that was important to the student

because she had helped or inspired them. It could be a woman in history, a mom, aunt, grandma, or older sister. They also read books about famous woman like Rosa Parks, Helen Keller, Wilma Rudolf, and Harriet Tubman. □



Lloyd Harbor: Mrs. Cooney's third graders struck a pose befitting for Madame Tussauds for the annual Live Wax Museum presentation for parents. Live on stage in the Little Theater, these kids flaunted their character-of-choice, after reading biographies and researching a famous person in history. Students wrote speeches, book reports and bibliographies, and learned how to extrapolate the most important information for their presentation. Then, they came to life on stage, one by one, from wax figure to real life, introducing themselves and telling their story.

#### COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

## POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY

Jr. High Musical SHREK!

It was a night of ogre-sized family fun the weekend of March 27th. Shrek and his loyal steed, Donkey, set off on their quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona. It was a must see musical comedy!

Thank you, to Director/
Choreographer, Jessica Raniere, and the entire cast, crew, and staff for entertaining us with this beloved movie tale.





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Lloyd Harbor Musical "Aladdin": Aladdin, Jasmine, and the Genie took everyone on a magic carpet ride through Agrabah! Director Chris McKee, with the help of an amazing support staff of teachers, parents, stage crew, and overture orchestra, proved once again that the Lloyd Harbor Theater Arts group is one-of-akind. This was Mr. McKee's fourth year working with our 6th graders, but it was his first time in the role of Director. A special thanks to Mrs. Katie Maloney who still maintained an active role in the production."

## Literary luncheon Author Tim Green

The Citizens Faculty Association (CFA) arranged for Author Tim Green to appear at this year's annual Literary Luncheon on March 18th at the Huntington Country Club. Mr. Green was a star defensive end with the Atlanta Falcons, and has written numerous books including *New York Times* bestsellers *The Dark Side of the Game* and *American Outrage*. His first book for young readers, *Football Genius*,



was inspired in part by his players and his own kids. His book *Unstoppable* is inspired by interviews with real-life cancer survivors and insider sports experience, this unforgettable New York Times bestseller shows a brave boy who learns what it truly means to be unstoppable. In addition, Mr. Green spoke with junior high school students prior to the luncheon since his lit-

erature is geared for adolescents. The annual Luncheon continues to provide opportunities for our students and staff with thought-provoking and engaging authors and works of literature. These luncheons have helped to raise funds for numerous opportunities throughout the years. Thank you to committee chairs, Connie Goldman and Lauryl Palatnick, and the entire Literary Luncheon committee.  $\square$ 



High School: Student Alexander
Ketterer (9th grade) designed and
built a new large cello/bass storage
rack used in Mr. Jenks orchestra
class. The project was constructed in
Mr. Healy's Engineering and Design
class with a little velvet upholstery
help from Ms. Georgiou. Alexander,
who is a bass player, realized the need
for an additional storage rack, and
brought up the idea to Mr. Jenks.
"Rather than buy a new one, why not
make one myself," he thought?
Amazing job!