

COLD SPRING HARBOR



VOLUME 39, NUMBER 3

A REPORT ON OUR SCHOOLS

WINTER 2015-16

The Halls are Alive!

With the sound of music

Hans Christian Andersen once said, “Where words fail, music speaks,” and that is why it is so important music continues to thrive in the classroom. While Plato taught us that “Music gives wings to the mind, and flight to the imagination,” students are experiencing this first hand K-12 with the guidance of extraordinary teachers, who not only “teach” the performing arts, they continue to perform professionally throughout the Metropolitan Tri-State area from Broadway to Carnegie Hall! Department chairs, Phil Gray and Brent Chiarello brought to life these amazing programs at the CPC (Central Parent Council) meeting in January. Opportunities abound with course selections in Jr. High for concert band, wind ensemble, chorus, and orchestra, and at the high school the same with additions of choir and chamber orchestra. In addition, extra-curricular clubs are offered such as jazz band, pep-band, brass ensemble, pit-orchestra, chamber singers, and theater/drama productions. But what if you can’t sing, or play an instrument? Well, students can record, produce, and compose in a state-of-the-art Music Studio class! There is also an AP Music Theory course, and a new Theater Workshop course for script reading, stage management, acting and scene building. The culmination for many is being inducted into the National Honor Society for Music (Tri-M) in 11th grade. And, it’s no wonder the high school courses are thriving, since all elementary 4th-6th grade students take music classes and



Department chairs, Phil Gray and Brent Chiarello. . . . Third graders explore string instruments, with Ms. Daniels and Mr. Meyers, during their year-long instrumental exploration in the District’s one-of-a-kind exploratory program.

*“Where words fail,
music speaks” . . .*

- Hans Christian Andersen

also receive weekly lessons on a rotating bases for instruments, as well as small group instruction to help with NYSSMA, LISFA and All-County competitions. Elementary theater has also been a long standing tradition for

the 5th and 6th graders who hone in their singing and acting-bug skills prior to junior high. These are no ordinary productions either, these productions are nothing short of professional! One of the most unique programs offered in the CSH School District is the 3rd grade “instrumental exploratory” program. It is one-of-a-kind on Long Island, begun 25 years ago where students explore all instruments (brass, woodwind, and string) as an indicator for what is a good fit for each student’s interest and skill set. □

Senator Marcellino Discusses Common Core



At the invitation of the Central Parent Council (CPC) Senator Carl Marcellino spoke to the community, administration and Board of Education members about the Common Core Learning Standards, the NY State Assessment program, and the Gap Elimination Adjustment. He explained his role as a member of the Common Core Task Force, and answered questions regarding their recommendations to the Board of Regents. □

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



• **Asset Award: Anthony Pesca** (left) was selected as a Bright Light by the Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Educational Technology (ASSET). Bright Lights are selected due to their exemplary integration of technology into their educational environment. Mr. Pesca, who teaches Social Studies/Economics was honored at the ASSET luncheon on January 13th accompanied by John Contess, the district's Director of Technology.



Proclamations of Love

On December 14th Suffolk County Legislator, **Dr. William R. Spencer**, presented 15 deserving recipients with official Proclamations for their donations to the CSH Locks of Love organizations. Dr. Spencer explained to the students that a Proclamation is a way to increase public awareness of issues, and a way of saying thank you to those who have made a difference. This year's deserving participants were: *Elizabeth Erichsen, Victoria Lizak, Lydia Reder, Nicole Marchese, Cailey Brogan, Señora Fristensky, Kylie Tsotsos, Katie Marasciullo, Ellie Fox, Tamana Bhatia, Christina Reilly, Michaela Kufner, Morgan Cody, Christina Cody, Melissa Marasciullo, and Cactus Salon.* □



• **MANUARY 2016 winner Mr. Topping:** Thirteen male teachers volunteered this year for the annual longest beard "Manuary" contest, which brings awareness to a fundraiser initiative for food donations to local food banks desperately in need. Student donations succeeded in topping last year's donations by more than 1500+ donations totaling 4,886 units of food collected – WOW! Donations were sent to Long Island Cares, Island Harvest, and several others. The teacher who collected the most (and this year's winner) was Mr. Topping, with Mr. Pesca close behind in second place. Mr. Natale and Dr. Andrews tied for third followed by Mr. Phelan in fourth. Many thanks to all the contestants for joining the race for the best beard. This has become a great tradition at the high school and a wonderful way to help local food pantries. Thank you to community service coordinator, Mrs. Alison Halloran and her Leadership Class for organizing this drive. □



Character Recognition Awards

The Jr./Sr. High School continues to recognize good character throughout the school year. In a ceremony held on Feb. 3rd Principal Jay Matuk and teachers honored 19 students, who were recognized for the trait of "courage." In the words of Nelson Mendela, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." Thank you to these brave students who help promote a positive school environment and are exemplary role models. The heartfelt stories told by the teachers, spoke volumes about the character of our student body. (photo inset recipients): *Summer Hayes, Alec Israeli, Dana Krauss, Nicole Smith, Ellie Fox, Mia Naccarato, Jack Hetherington, Jolie Nemshin, Jennifer Rosenberg, Sheridan Schwertl, Kristin Jaspers, Sophia Kalinowska-Werter, James Rampi, Royce Reiter, Liam Kaley, Nicky Melillo, Marc Paverman, Izabel Farynick, Georgeanna Manos.* □

Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors



- **Spelling Bee Champions: Lloyd Harbor** Olivia Pellizzi (grade 4) placed first, and Henry Dam (grade 5) was the runner-up. Congratulations!

- **Spelling Bee Champions: West Side**

Jonathan Brown (first place), and runner-up Blake Newman. Both 5th graders, these two students went neck and neck for 20 rounds until a victor was crowned. Congratulations to all of the contestants.



- **West Side Geography Bee:**

Congratulations to 2016 champion, Jackson DeMarco and runner-up, Gregor Acker. Third place went to James Tucker.



- **West Side Jump Rope**

Championship: held by Physical Education Teacher Mr. Yost, First place went to Kati Cotek, runner-up Hailey Schulsinger, and third place went to Kaitlin Jasinski.



- **Math Award:** CSH High School's Team-A took 5th place at the Suffolk County Math Teacher's Association (SCMTA) all day tournament at Suffolk County Community College. *Mathletes* coach, Matt Chartan, attended with 15 student contestants, where the winning team of 5 students, Ezra Brody, Zach Wang, Gus Kasper, A.J. Subudhi, Rob Becker placed fifth.

Superintendent Search Update

The Board of Education would like to thank all those who completed the community survey or participated in stakeholder meetings to provide input to help establish the qualities we are looking for in our next Superintendent of Schools. Respondents have indicated that the most important qualities our next Superintendent should possess are personal characteristics such as high moral and ethical standards, communication and leadership; along with high expectations for accountability, being open to new ideas and suggestions, standing among professional colleagues, understanding effective teaching practices, and being current on educational trends. Our search consultants, Western Suffolk BOCES, met with 18 different stakeholder groups. The summary of the stakeholder feedback mirrors the input garnered on the community survey and focused the priorities of the district on education, finance, and culture. Western Suffolk BOCES has told us, "All stakeholders expressed pride in the district and the current superintendent." The identified characteristics, issues and needs will be incorporated into the candidate profile and will guide the interview process. The Board began interviews of candidates in February.

- **John Sepanski:** (senior) won 3rd place in the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition and 2nd place in the Island Symphony Young Artist Competition (where thousands apply across Long Island, open to instrumentalists of all ages).



- **Caroline Kiernan:** senior Varsity basketball player scored the 1,000 point of her four-year varsity career against East Rockaway. The game was stopped, with coach Rory Malone and her parents joining her on the court to celebrate this milestone. Director of Athletics, Mike Bongino said, "This is a remarkable accomplishment, and we were all so excited for her."
- **Music Honors:** Brent Chiarello, Secondary Music Chair, congratulated this year's 51 students (grades 5-12) selected for the **2016 All County Honors Music Festival** in January at the Tilles Center.

2016-2017 School Budget Schedule

**Tuesday, March 15th
6:30 PM to 9 PM**

Special Meeting
of the Board of Education
Budget Review:
Goosehill Primary, Special Education,
Personnel & Instructional Services,
Technology, Athletics

**Tuesday, March 29th
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

Special Meeting of the
Board of Education Budget Review:
Jr./Sr. High School,
Buildings and Grounds
Undistributed/General
Support/Transportation

Tuesday, April 12th - 8 PM

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Education
Adoption of Proposed Budget

Monday, May 2nd - 8 PM
"Meet the Candidates Night"

Tuesday, May 10th - 8 PM

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Education
Annual Budget Meeting and
Hearing Presentation of Proposed
2016-2017 Budget

**Tuesday, May 17th
6 AM to 10 PM**

Annual Budget Vote, Capital
Reserve Vote, & Board Election
Ralph Whitney Field House,
CSHHS

CSH Library

Appoints New Director

CSH Public Library appointed a New Executive Director, Dr. Roger Podell. At the CPC (Central Parent Council) meeting on January 7th, Dr. Podell spoke to community parent members to introduce himself. He has worked in the library field for over twenty years as a librarian in the



Garden City School District and as director of the School Library System for Western Suffolk BOCES, coordinating services for eighteen school districts.

His last position was as the Director of the Elmont Public Library, one of the largest public libraries on Long Island. Dr. Podell is an adjunct professor at Long Island University's Palmer School of Library and Information Science. □



Life In The Middle East

Greg Bergida

Alumnus Greg Bergida, CSH class of 1998, was invited as a guest speaker to the high school for a discussion and Q&A about what it is like to live in the Middle East. He encouraged students to learn more, be open, think and be curious, and be respectful of opinions. He challenged students to, "Go out, debate and discuss! You are citizens of the world; take into account opposing views and use social media,

CSH Educational Foundation

Funds new initiatives

The CSH Educational Foundation (CSHEF) continues to support CSH Schools, by enhancing opportunity and expanding possibility. It's mission is to raise funds to ensure the legacy of excellence in our public schools. The Foundation supports initiatives and creates opportunities for students where tax dollars fall short and budgets don't allow. CSHEF President, Stephanie DiNozzi explains, "The Foundation's mission is to fund innovative initiatives that directly impact students and enhance the reputation of the CSH schools. Thanks to the generous support of our parent community and local businesses, the Foundation has helped implement a number of innovative and impressive programs in our schools." These programs include an *In-house Research Laboratory* at the high school, 140 iPads at the elementary schools to expand personalized learning initiatives, extension of an after-school *Robotics Club* at the elementary schools for 5th and 6th grades, a *Virtual Enterprise International* class supported by a network of Business Leaders to teach/mentor VEI Students, and the *Hour of Code* "Global Movement" at the elementary schools to introduce computer coding. CSH School District has a distinguished reputation of academic excellence in education, with the Foundation playing a key role in fiscal stability and funding grants to ensure the continuance of excellence and 21st century learners in the state and nation. □



A Must See Movie!!!

What if everything you were taught about food and exercise wasn't true? Recently the Foundation hosted the first in a three-part series on Body, Mind & Social Media at the CSH Public Library. Community members watched a shockingly revealing film called *Fed Up* which blows the lid off everything we thought we knew about food and exercise. Narrated by Katie Couric, and produced by local parents Michelle and Michael Walrath (owners of "Organic Krush" in Woodbury). This eye-opening movie is a must see for every family; vital information about "sugar" and advertising targeted toward our youth will change the way you eat forever. The Walraths gave a complimentary copy of the film to every student in CSH to share with their families. Hopefully, many have taken action and joined the Fed Up Challenge! □



but hear other voices and learn from them before you make your decision." Stereotypes can be dangerous, as students learned by listing stereotypes of both the Middle East and America. He encouraged students to ask themselves, "What supports your views?" Greg shared his stories of life in the Middle East and explored some of the cultural differences he has noticed between his life in the United States and his years abroad. Greg is the Director of Student Affairs and an adjunct assistant professor of journalism at Northwestern

University's Middle East campus in Qatar. He is also the brother of English teacher Joey (Bergida) Waters who, along with Ms. Glynn, Dr. Acconi, and Mr. Homer, offered this important discussion opportunity on behalf of The Holocaust Genocide Project, FLAG: the gender equity club, the Gay-Straight Alliance, and Save the Children. (photo inset) Joey Waters with brother, Greg Bergida, and Alice Bergida Bleier (mother and former CSH Board of Education member). □

LightSail

Using Apps to Read

This year, grades 4-6 at both West Side and Lloyd Harbor, are using a reading App called *LightSail*. After a pilot program was launched



last year, using the school's iPads, students are able to access thousands of books with just one touch.

Teachers continue to receive professional development in order to assist students while using *LightSail*. Students are assessed online to find their "zone of proximal development" allowing *LightSail* to connect interesting and appropriate books for each student so that students achieve optimal growth. Students are able to "check-out" books just like they would from a public library, but from a specially chosen virtual library by our district. Students, teachers, and administrators have input as to what books they

would like to have available in this library. Daily progress is monitored with built-in questions for every text, and teachers can determine if students are progressing at their individual levels. Students are able to communicate their thoughts via anecdotal notes within the App and the teacher can then view and comment on their thoughts/ideas. This year, with the assistance of the Cold Spring Harbor Educational Foundation the district purchased extra iPads for students who may not have an iPad available to them at home. These "loaners" will allow students to use the *LightSail* App at home and give them the opportunity to continue reading their eBooks at night. While observing in Ms. Palmer's class at Lloyd Harbor (photo inset), students expressed their opinions, and most agreed "I love it!" Julianna said, "The App won't



allow me to skip pages, it makes sure I understand it before I keep reading." Ava loves the definition button to help her with vocabulary, and Eric shared, "I can find any book I want on the iPad, and if it's late at night in bed sometimes I switch to audio mode – it's fun!" Ms. Palmer also likes the fact that students can't see the "thickness" of a book, so they are not deterred from reading a long book. At West Side, the students participated in a *LightSail* Reading Challenge during the month of January. Throughout the month, progress was tracked on a bulletin board in the school and in the end the fourth graders took first place. West Side students read for almost 47,000 minutes, simply incredible! □

"The App won't allow me to skip pages, it makes sure I understand it before I keep reading."



Caught in the Act

West Side kicked off Genuine *Acts of Kindness Month* throughout January, where all staff members handed out tickets to students who exhibited genuine acts of kindness toward their peers. Congratulations to all of the students who earned a total of 282 "good deed" tickets. Additional thanks to Ashley Ecker and Paola Jimbo who tracked the progress throughout the month. West Siders will have the opportunity to earn more tickets in future months for displaying a "growth mindset" of working hard, showing grit and demonstrating perseverance. □

A Day in Clay With Cliff Mendelson

What a wonderful experience students had at the elementary schools to create clay tiles and vases with professional "master of clay" artist, Mr. Cliff Mendelson. **West Side** worked on a large scale ceramic tile mural entitled "Images of Meso America." Students chose images that were important to the Inca, Mayan, and Aztec cultures.

This timeless and most relevant themed mural expresses the importance of design and diversity. Throughout the day, students created hand-made low relief architectural tiles using the symbols and imagery inspired by various designs.



At **Lloyd Harbor**, students created Native American vases in intricate coil and spiral patterns pressed into the façade of each pot to create low relief designs in Ms. McLam's art classes. They were made with "air drying" clay that does not need to be fired in a kiln. After a long drying period, they can then be painted. Special thanks to the school's Cultural Arts Committee and Art Department Chair, Ms. McLaughlin for making this a possibility for our learners. □



Snow Globes!

At **Lloyd Harbor** the Student Council's Act of Kindness project in December was to create a winter wonderland of "snow globes" located throughout the building depicting an act of kindness message. The halls and doorways are lined with these imaginative and creative large snow globes with inspirational words of kindness. □



What's New to Eat?

Lloyd Harbor: One of the Lloyd Harbor School Improvement Team (SIT) initiatives this year is to work with Food Services to promote the excitement about what is being served in the LHS café. Each month a "feature item" is introduced to the students. In January, delicious juicy Clementines were highlighted; students learned that a Clementine is a hybrid cross between a Chinese Mandarin and a Sweet Orange. They are each packed with 36 milligrams of Vitamin C meeting the requirements of a daily recommended allowance! Student council officers, SIT members, and administration sat down to a "pizza-tasting luncheon" put together by Gerri Tiger, Director of Food Services. Following the USDA guidelines of 51% whole grain, Ms. Tiger served a variety of pizza, and votes will determine which three will be introduced on *Pizza Lovers Day!* □



West Side: On Tuesday Feb 2 Lieutenant Colonel David Melendez, Battalion Commander of the 104th Engineer Battalion, NJARNG, came to West Side School to speak at morning assembly and to answer some questions from the students about his active duty service in the US Army. Lt. Melendez is a Lloyd Harbor dad with children in both Goosehill and Lloyd Harbor schools. The students did a drive for Operation Gratitude which sent supplies to active duty soldiers and made Valentines that day to send with the care packages.

Hour of Code

Computer Science Week

Lloyd Harbor/West Side: For the second year in a row, the CSH Educational Foundation (CSHEF) partnered with the School District to conduct the global-wide *Hour of Code* in the elementary schools during "Computer Science Week." Computer giants like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg support and organize *Hour of Code* with a goal to reach tens of millions of students in over 180 countries around the globe to participate. Although the Code participation is age-limitless, CSH school district concentrated on grades 2-6 at West Side and Lloyd Harbor, with Ms. Diehl facilitating the sessions. Animated tutorials motivate youth to tackle a little computer science through the exploration of games and coding. Together the schools have written over 136,000 lines of code. Computer science and coding develop students' computational and critical thinking skills and shows them how to create, not simply use, new technologies. □



Story Faces

"I am a painter and a storyteller, and this is how I tell my stories." These are the words of Christopher Agostino, who tells folktales of transformation and wonder through face painting. His one-of-a-kind performance delights audiences using a combination of skillful storytelling through the spoken word, while illustrating the journey through face painting. Thanks to the Cultural Arts Committee, his unique



presentation came to Lloyd Harbor and West Side for the second year in a row this January. Focusing on a journey through the rainforests of the Congo, students were taken deep into the jungle where Pigmy tribes use dramatic body painting as marks of personal identity. Mr. Agostino brings these tribal cultures to life, saying, "*The face is my canvas...I bring together the imaginary and the supernatural to bring legends to life.*" A truly clever and fascinating way to tell a story! □

Goosehill



Buddy Benches

Thank you to the parent association (GPFA) for the generous donation of two “Buddy Benches” for the Goosehill playground. The idea behind the benches was to make sure all students feel included while at recess. If a student is feeling lonely or left out, they can choose to sit on the bench knowing that a friend is sure to come and take their hand to play. □

Pet Turtles

The Turtles arrived on schedule this fall for the first graders, who were privileged to receive them from the *Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery*, who team up annually with Goosehill Primary School to educate students about these amazing creatures. The Fish Hatchery arranged for tanks, heaters, filters and field trips to introduce the kids to the natural world of turtles. The baby turtles will live in the science room, and then be released come spring to their proper natural habitat. Once a week, each class visits and cares for their individual classroom turtle. Students take turns feeding, adding water to the tank, measuring growth, and observing changes. The children are all very concerned about their turtles, and take great pride in naming and caring for them. They learn turtles get scared, they love to hide, and they love to keep warm. These first graders are natural scientists, and they love to explore their curiosity and observations with the Fish Hatchery, under the direction of Environmental Educator, Krissy Forman. All are looking forward to an exciting year of inquiry and discovery. □

Is Kindergarten the New First Grade?

The New York State School Board’s newspaper, *On Board*, recently highlighted the Cold Spring Harbor School District in an article about national trends in kindergarten education. A recent study conducted at the University of Virginia entitled, “*Is Kindergarten the New First Grade?*” showed that kindergarten classrooms across the nation have become increasingly focused on academics in response to higher standards and state assessments in the upper grades. The study also revealed that in many kindergarten classrooms, an emphasis on academic goals resulted in less time for art, music, and activities designed to foster exploration, discovery, and the development of social skills. When asked to comment on the results of the study, Goosehill Primary School Principal Lynn Herschlein responded, “*Our teachers are committed to finding the appropriate balance for our young learners. Social, emotional, and behavioral skills must be nurtured in the early years. We know that exploration and play are critical to the development of those skills. We also know that our students will be expected to achieve at increasingly higher levels as they move on to the upper grades. That knowledge compels us to find ways to provide rigorous instruction so that they develop strong foundational skills in the primary years.*”

Kindergarten teachers at Goosehill Primary School design lessons that are both rigorous and playful. Children receive instruction based upon goals and benchmarks, but also have daily opportunities for physical activity, the arts, and socialization. They read and write about topics they love, solve math problems, and investigate science concepts. They also have play centers—with traditional block and kitchen corners, as well as computers and iPads. Mrs. Herschlein explained that teachers infuse the practice of skills into center activities. “*When we see them employing the academic and social skills we’re teaching them in their play, we know that we have found the right balance and made the right connections,*” Mrs. Herschlein told *On Board*.

While kindergarten in Cold Spring Harbor may be more academically oriented today than it was ten years ago, the shift has occurred gradually and with careful attention to children’s needs. “*We have maintained what we have always known works for young children—what kindergarten has always been—and incorporated rich instruction based upon challenging and achievable goals.*” Today’s kindergarten seems to be more a blend of kindergarten and first grade than “the new first grade.”

Detective Blue

Who solves mysteries with nursery rhymes? *Detective Blue* that’s who! And the students at Goosehill certainly helped solve the case! Principal Lynn Herschlein welcomed author Steve Metzger, who was quite shocked at the extensive repertoire of nursery rhymes known by the students of Goosehill. Mr. Metzger said,

“*I have never had a young audience demonstrate such knowledge of nursery rhymes, facts about space, and vocabulary. I am so impressed!*” They told him the meaning of “curds & whey” from the story of Little Miss Muffet, and he simply could not stump them no matter what questions he asked. Knowledge of nursery rhymes was critical to understanding his book, *Detective Blue*. Nursery rhymes build phonological awareness, the sounds of language, which is the foundation of early reading and writing skills. Thank you Mr. Metzger, for bringing your clever detective stories to life at Goosehill, and letting the students help you “crack the case” with a little help from some ol’ friends like Humpty Dumpty and Georgie Porgie. □



COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Natural Helpers

Students helping students

Kids today battle enormous amounts of peer pressure and bullying – most common in today's world is the use of cyber-bullying. Students live with fears that were unheard of years ago, yet one constant still seems to remain the same; young people turn to their friends when they are in trouble. However, many friends may not know what to do. When do you seek a parent or professional involvement for a solution? As a response to concerns over the increase in teenage suicide and other problems, "The Natural Helpers Program" was piloted in 1979. It is a peer-helping program that specializes in training youth, and is used in high schools across the U.S. and in several other countries. Students are selected by their peers, chosen for their trustworthiness and natural skill for helping others in need; teacher advisors are selected by students.

On Saturday, Nov. 14th an all-day professional training program (mandatory for all 85 members), taught students how to handle a variety of situations by improving their



"The program gives tools to students to help recognize others in need . . ."

helping and listening skills, and when to confidentially seek resources when problems exceed their limitations. Natural Helpers come together for one purpose – to help others in need. Schools throughout the country have acknowledged a proven effectiveness and positive difference with The Natural Helpers Program. "The program gives tools to students to help recognize others in need and the abil-

ity to know what to do with information that can be overwhelming. It also lets them know there is a wealth of resources for them to turn to when situations are tough. We are trying to have students who are usually turned to for guidance realize they are not alone and that it takes a village." shared, Chris Homer (Health teacher and co-advisor with Ms. Velez, Jr. High Social Worker). Guest speakers, Kelly Bocchicchio, Social Worker Hicksville high school, and Mark Calder, Huntington Life Center, led discussions on stress, Megan's Law, good decision making, and cyber safety. □