



Celebrating 50 Years of Service

# Forum

## Save the Date

### VIOLENCE PREVENTION CERTIFICATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020 4-6 P.M.  
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020 4-6 P.M.

### CHILD ABUSE CERTIFICATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020 4-6 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020 4-6 P.M.

### DASA CERTIFICATION

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020 4-7 P.M.  
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020 4-7 P.M.  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020 4-7 P.M.

### 19TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020  
VILLA LOMBARDI'S, HOLBROOK,  
NEW YORK

Dear Reader,

While this column usually pertains to information about SCOPE programs and Long Island school district activities, I am departing from the usual to encourage our readers to participate in the 2020 Census which will begin this April.

April 2020 is Census Month. Children all across Long Island will celebrate Census Month by participating in lessons related to the census in classes, activities and children's books to learn about the purpose and importance of the 2020 Census. In addition, school districts may send out flyers, post signs and utilize social media encouraging families to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire. An all-out campaign will begin to motivate families to make certain they become part of the count.

Census data collection only happens every 10 years and has a major impact on many things that directly affect Long Island schools and our region. The data collected is utilized to determine how much funding Long Island will receive for hospitals, schools, roads, health insurance, public works and many additional things that affect our quality of life. The census data is also used to determine the number of representatives we have in Congress. Without correct data, we may not be properly represented. As a result of the 2010 Census data, New York lost two seats in Congress. An undercount of 0.6% for the 2020 Census could result in the loss of two additional seats, even less of a voice for Long Islanders in Washington.

If your school district is undercounted in the 2020 Census, it may be underresourced through 2030. This could have a tremendous impact on the education of children attending schools in your district for the next 10 years. The data collected will set funding levels for schools, special education, children's health insurance, recreational programs and school lunch programs and may even have an effect on class size.

The data collected determines how more than \$675 billion each year is disseminated. It is important to make certain you are part of the count. Make sure Long Island gets our fair share.

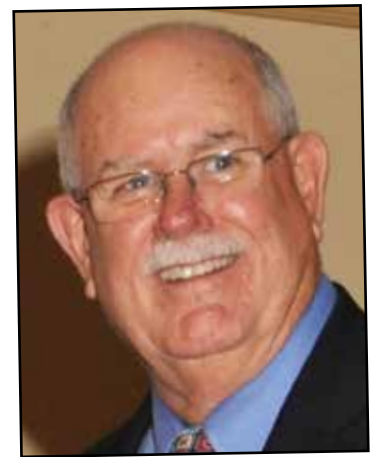
The Census Bureau cannot share your information with anyone; violations will subject census workers to severe fines and even jail time. It only takes approximately 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire and it may be completed and submitted online, by telephone or by mail. This is our chance to get the data right. There will not be another opportunity until 2030.

The stakes for our region couldn't be higher. It is up to us to stand together to ensure that Long Island is fairly and fully represented in the 2020 Census. Make sure to fill out the 2020 Census and do everything you can to spread the word about this important civic duty.

Wishing each of you a successful and healthy 2020!

Sincerely,

George L. Duffy  
Executive Director



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*"SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization currently celebrating our 55th year, is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to public school districts on Long Island and in New York State."*

George L. Duffy, Executive Director

# RECOGNIZING SERVICE AND COMMITMENT

The unique and motivating programs SCOPE offers are the direct result of the amazing staff who work with children every day and inspire them to learn and grow. SCOPE Educational Services takes great pride in the exceptional quality and professionalism of its staff. The dedicated staff is the core of SCOPE's success as a recognized leader as a service provided to public school districts. SCOPE is committed to acknowledging the contributions made by the staff that contributes to the overall success of the organization.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO SCOPE

To kick off the start of the professional development training held at the Burr Intermediate School in the Commack School District, those in attendance gathered to recognize SCOPE staff members who have dedicated years of service to SCOPE Education Services for the benefit and education of Long Island's children.

As their names were announced by SCOPE Executive Director George Duffy and Associate Director for Instructional Services Michael O'Brien, colleagues applauded 19 individuals for 10 years, 15 years and 20 years of service, respectively.

"Congratulations to all of our award recipients," Mr. Duffy said. "It is wonderful to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable staff working to promote our goals."



*Employees who were honored for 20 years of service to SCOPE.*



*Employees who were honored for 15 years of service to SCOPE.*



*Employees who were honored for 10 years of service to SCOPE.*

### STAFF ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE

Those honored for their service included:

#### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Kristina Amato
- Patrice Capobianco
- Jeanette Capolongo
  - Inez Chatman
- Josephine Giuffrida
  - Gloria Taylor

#### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Patricia Brockman
- Kathryn Hawkins
  - Ewa Krzal
- Susan Rohrs
- Joanne Zilli

#### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Andrea Abdulla
  - Lisa Blank
- Barbara Fagiolo
- Natalie Marcello
- Linda Podmeyer
- Katherine Reilly
  - Moira Stebner
- Elizabeth Teuschler

# Who We Are and What We Do To Benefit Children

## Who We Are

- A service provider chartered by the New York State Board of Regents.
- Provider of before- and after-school child care in the child's home school district, typically in the child's home school.
- Provider of school-year and summer enrichment programs tailored to meet the wants and needs of each district.
- Provider of universal pre-K (state-funded) and pre-K (parent-pay) half-day programs for 4 year olds, five days a week for the full school year (180 days).
- Provider of half-day pre-K programs for 3 year olds, three days a week for the 40 weeks of the school year.
- Provider of extended-day child care for students enrolled in half-day pre-K programs (if approved, with minimal enrollment requirements).
- SCOPE is New York State approved as a Continuing Teacher and Leader Education provider, offering courses of one to three credits per semester (typically online).
- SCOPE provides SAT/PSAT/ACT preparation courses for high school students, offered after school in a face-to-face format.
- Provider of speaker workshops on prevention of sexual harassment, bullying, cyberbullying and any other topic requested by the district or community organization.
- Provider of an annual teacher assistant workshop to inform teacher assistants in identified areas of need.
- Provider of certification workshops for child abuse awareness and prevention, violence prevention and DASA (Dignity for All Students Act).
- Coordinates and publishes the international education research journal, Journal for Leadership and Instruction, twice yearly.
- Publishes the Forum, a newspaper with updates on SCOPE services and information from school districts throughout Long Island.



## What We Do

- We place children in before- and after-school day care programs that are safe, stimulating and fun. The adult-to-child ratio of 1:10 is enforced, and every employee is thoroughly vetted before being employed.
- We have upgraded the play materials at each of our child care sites to reflect the ever-evolving interests of the students.
- We have supported our child care staff with organized and structured STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) activities, with the expectation that a facet of STEAM is implemented each month.
- We have secured the services of a security expert to oversee our child care sites and make recommendations to ensure safety.
- We collaborate with parents and the school to address the particular needs of children who struggle in social situations.
- Our child care staff receives ongoing student management training, with 15 hours or more of in-service training each year.
- No child is ever denied service because of validated financial need.

## ENRICHMENT

- Enrichment programs are designed to address and accommodate the interests of the students and taught by qualified staff.
- Every effort is made to schedule sessions that meet parent needs and offer alternatives in the event of oversubscription.
- Enrichment fees cover the cost of supervision, instruction and materials.



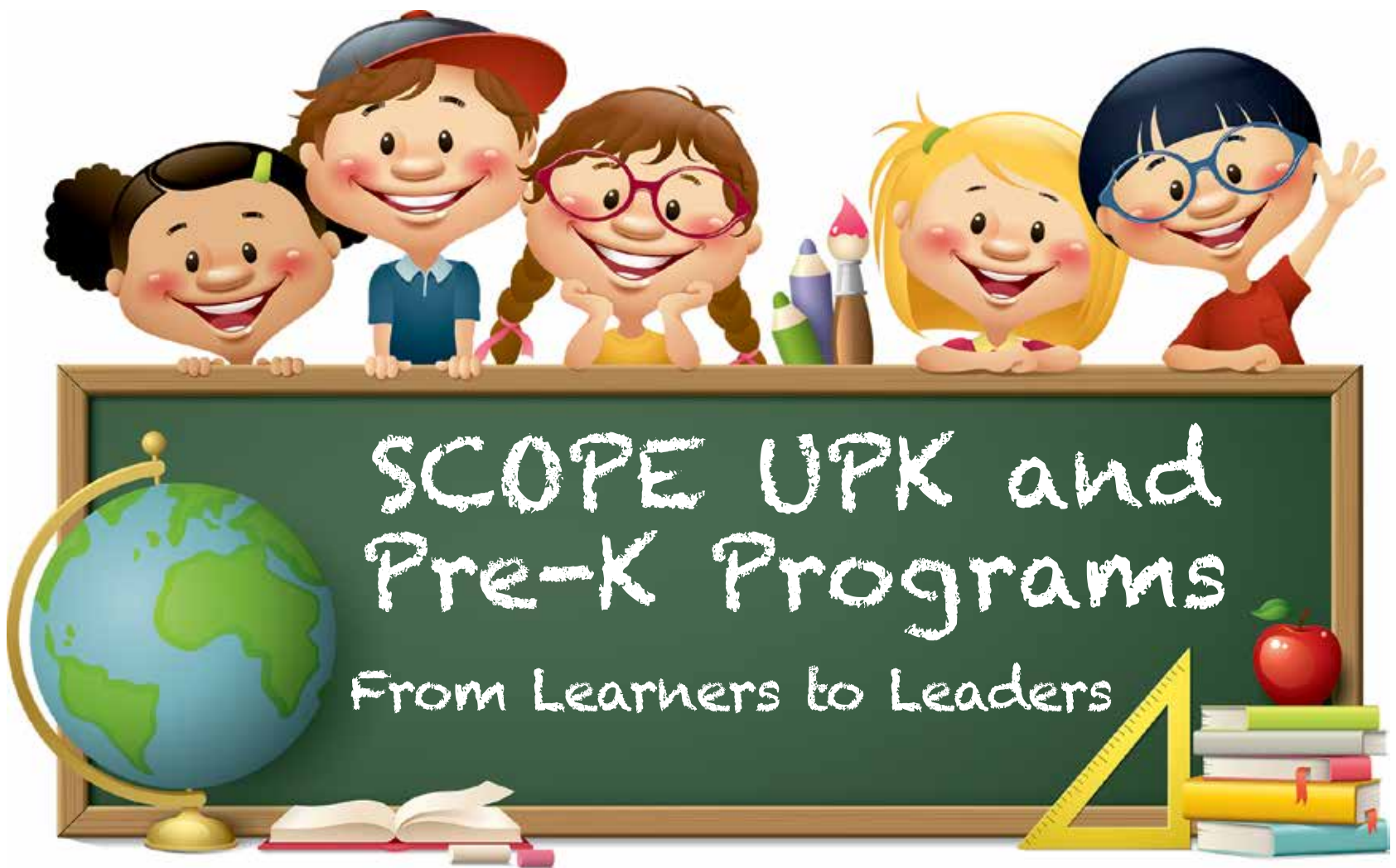
## PRE-K

- Pre-kindergarten, whether universal pre-K or private-pay pre-K, adheres to the recommendations imposed through the New York State Office of Early Learning. These recommendations touch on classroom environment, instruction, assessments, and coordination with the families involved, the district and the community.
- We are making efforts to attach extended child care to our half-day pre-K programs, which then includes the licensing of space through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

If you haven't taken a course in a while, please take a look at some of the courses SCOPE is offering by visiting [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us). Summer course offerings will be available online in April. For more information, contact Professional Development Coordinator Betty Westcott at 631-881-9651. Below is an overview of just one of the workshops SCOPE offered in November, 2019: **Introduction to Mindfulness for K-12 Educators, Presented by Anthony Pantaleno, Ph.D., NYS Licensed Psychologist/Certified School Psychologist.**

In this three hour workshop, educators were introduced to a brief history of mindfulness in the United States and the critical need for developing mindfulness practices that have significant physical and mental health care benefits for educators and the children they serve. Participants left with a basic working understanding of mindfulness, techniques to ease their personal connections in the workplace and resources to voluntarily explore their development in the future.



# SCOPE Services for Children and Students

## Focus on Children

Nothing is more important to SCOPE Education Services than the well-being of the children of Long Island. SCOPE provides a wide array of programs to serve children and their families. Child-care and educational programs are designed

to help children thrive academically, emotionally and physically in a safe, enjoyable environment.

For further information about any program, contact: Mindy Labriola at 631-360-0800, ext. 164 or Dina Pendel at 631-360-0800, ext. 120.

## SCOPE UPK and PRE-K PROGRAMS

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Universal Pre-K program provides eligible 4-year-old children with a wonderland of opportunity and discovery that builds on their natural curiosity and eagerness to learn. The program focuses on meeting the child's total developmental needs. Social, emotional, motor and cognitive growth are fostered through creative expression, arts and crafts, science, math, reading readiness, music, dance, large and small motor coordination, and much more. The curriculum is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards and is designed to transition students into kindergarten.

### STAFFING

All teachers are New York State certified and specialists in early childhood education. Teachers

are teamed with trained assistants who are sensitive to the unique qualities and needs of each child. SCOPE teachers participate in professional workshops to keep abreast of new trends in education. Staff meetings are conducted weekly to create a sharing and collaborative environment.

### ADMISSION

Admission is open to all eligible 4-year-old children residing in the school district (district transportation restrictions may apply). Students must be eligible to attend kindergarten the following school year in order to attend the Universal Pre-K program. Enrollment is limited to 18 students, who must be enrolled within the school district. If there are more eligible students than spots, the school

district must hold a lottery and create a waiting list.

### TUITION

Universal Pre-K programs are funded through school district state aid designated for that purpose. There is no cost to parents for children to attend this program. In districts where there is no UPK funding, SCOPE provides a parent-paid, tuition-based program.

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS CURRENTLY OFFERING SCOPE UPK/PRE-K PROGRAMS:

- Commack – UPK and tuition
- Comsewogue – UPK and tuition
- Connetquot – UPK only
- East Meadow – Tuition only

East Moriches – UPK

Eastport-South Manor – UPK and tuition

Hampton Bays – UPK only

Hauppauge – Tuition only

Huntington – UPK only

Island Trees – Tuition only

Lindenhurst – Tuition only

New Hyde Park-Garden City Park – UPK only

North Babylon – Tuition only

Patchogue-Medford – UPK only

Riverhead – UPK only

Sachem – UPK and tuition

Springs – UPK only

West Babylon – Tuition only

For more information, contact Melissa Krauss at 631-360-0800, ext. 146.

# SCOPE Services for

# Children and Students



## Before- and After-School School-Age Child Care Programs

SCOPE Education Services is the largest child care provider in the state of New York, serving more than 7,000 students. All SCOPE child care programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and are operated in public schools on Long Island.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCOPE child care programs provide a safe, fun, caring environment for the children of working parents. A variety of age-appropriate, supervised games, sports, arts and crafts, and enrichment opportunities are offered, as well as healthy snacks, scheduled homework time and daily opportunities to socialize with peers.

### STAFFING

All staff undergo an extensive background check and meet or exceed all requirements set by the state of New York. The programs maintain a staffing ratio of one adult to 10 children at all times. SCOPE program supervisors and field trainers oversee the programs. In addition, the Office of Children and Family Services conducts inspections of the programs on a regular basis.

### ADMISSION

The programs are open to all elementary

school students residing in the school district. (District transportation restrictions may apply.) Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to capacity limits set by the OCFS regulations. When necessary, students are placed on a waiting list for the next available opening.

### TUITION

Parents pay all fees directly to SCOPE. Fees are posted for a.m. only, p.m. only, and a.m. and p.m. combined, as well as part-time (10 days or less) and full-time (all school days in the month). Fees are subject to change. Please contact SCOPE to obtain information regarding available programs and specific fees for your school district.

### SCOPE RESPONSIBILITIES

SCOPE conducts all needs assessments; designs the program to meet district needs; obtains all licensing; recruits, screens, hires and compensates all program staff; provides

all staff training; purchases all consumable materials; provides children with a nutritious snack each day; provides all program supervision and maintains appropriate insurance coverage for the program.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The school district provides adequate and appropriate space for the program according to the OCFS regulation requirements, provides access to a storage area and refrigeration, provides access to a phone line, provides custodial services and permits SCOPE to distribute information regarding the program to parents in the school district.

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**For further information, contact  
Dina Pendel and Mindy Labriola at  
631-360-0800, ext. 120 or 164.**

## ENRICHMENT IS THE KEY TO LEARNING

All SCOPE-sponsored enrichment activities take place outside the school day, and each experience is structured to complement the learning base provided by the school, with added emphasis on the interests expressed by the students. SCOPE has been able to offer programs in the visual and performing arts; science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM); health and wellness; foreign languages and cultural development; leadership development and service learning; history; social studies and geography. The possibilities are endless.



# ALREADY PLANNING FOR SUMMER 2020?

## BE PART OF THE LEARNING AND FUN

Throughout the summer months, children attending SCOPE programs will spend their time engaged in interesting and enjoyable activities that focus on learning and connecting experiences to their own personal interests. These enrichment opportunities are designed to stimulate young minds, encourage exploration, build curiosity and self-confidence, and often trigger lifelong pursuits.

During the summer of 2020, SCOPE will be offering a collection of interesting and unique programs for children to explore and enjoy. Below is an overview of the types of enrichment programs available.

- **Chef School** – Put on your chef hat and get ready to cook. Students will learn how to make fun and healthy recipes that they can enjoy taste testing in class. Students will create and design a recipe book to bring home so they can showcase their new cooking skills for the family. **For children with food allergies, SCOPE will make every effort to accommodate their needs, but please be aware that all ingredients are not guaranteed to be free of all various allergens.**

- **Extreme STEAM** – This challenging class is designed for those students who are curious and love to design their own projects. Design and build an air-powered rocket, build a launching system and test it out. Build a Hoop Glider to see how far it can fly. Learn the art of problem-solving and how to improve your design for improved speed or distance.

- **Edible Science/Chefs in the Laboratory** – Have you ever wondered how things work? Discover, explore and learn about our wonderful world through tasty science experiments.

Eat slime! Construct the layers of the earth and claim you have eaten the world! Come join us and explore the possibilities. **For children with food allergies, SCOPE will make every effort to accommodate their needs, but please be aware that all ingredients are not guaranteed to be free of all various allergens.**

- **LEGO Engineering** – The LEGO engineering program includes STEM-based challenges and

free-building experiences. Students will use LEGOs in ice to discover how archaeologists work to uncover fossils. They will test the laws of physics by building bridges and skyscrapers and test their stability in simulations. Students will work to problem solve and will love rising to the LEGO challenge.

- **Music, Movement and More** – Children will work on their fine and gross motor skills by participating in movement-related activities. Musical hoops, soccer and sponge relays are among some of the high-energy activities keeping students running and jumping.

- **Spotlight on Theater** – Do you crave the spotlight? Do you want to improve your acting skills? Well, now is your chance to be in the limelight. Students will learn various acting skills and stand in the spotlight for a class filled with the magic of theater. Students will create and act out commercials, bring books to life and perform for their peers by creating their own props and scenery.

- **Strategic Games** – Do you like to play board games and solve puzzles? If so, join us for an exciting program that challenges our mental capacities to compete in popular board games and solve puzzles. This hands-on class will include activities that incorporate aspects of socialization, fair play and collaboration. Students will engage in challenges including chess, Scrabble, checkers and 3D puzzles.

- **Team Sports Club** – Leave behind the TV and video games and come join us in the gym and on the field for some healthy, athletic fun. You will be able to participate in team sports such as wiffleball, tug-o-war, soccer and more. We will focus on sportsmanship and teamwork.

- **Wearable Art** – Make your statement and wear it! Design your own bracelets, T-shirts, wristbands, headbands and more.

These examples of summer program choices are provided to give you a broad overview of the exciting and enjoyable learning and creative experiences your child could have during the summer months. Enjoyment and having fun are tied to each of the experiences described.

The creation of courses can be as varied as the presenters who are willing to teach and the student and parent interest that is expressed

SCOPE works with the school district to offer these programs during a time that works for parents and at a rate that is affordable to parents. Typically, all summer programs run daily, Monday through Friday, throughout the month of July (except for July 4), with each session running from one hour to an hour and a half.

We invite you to go to the SCOPE website at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us) and click on Student Services. There you will see the school districts that have already contracted with SCOPE to provide these workshops during the summer of 2020.



# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



### COPIAGUE

#### Wiley Teacher Honored for Use of Technology

Jennifer Rosario, a fourth grade teacher at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School, was recognized with the Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Educational Technologies Bright Light Award. The award is presented to teachers throughout Suffolk County for adding innovative digital curriculum and technology into the teaching and learning process. Ms. Rosario, who has been teaching in the Copiague School District for 15 years, was nominated for the award by the district's director of technology, Kelly Urraro.

this spring as a recipient of the Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award. He is among 16 honorees to receive this prestigious recognition. The Education Partner Award recognizes individuals who have made a substantial impact on public education in Nassau County. Mr. Gamache has served on the East Rockaway Board of Education since 2014 and became president in July 2018. He has worked tirelessly for East Rockaway students, school district and community for the past six years, supporting "detracking" and the new middle school philosophy that allows every student an equal opportunity to participate in the best programs.



### FREEPORT

#### Board of Education Vice President Honored by Nassau BOCES

Vilma Lancaster, Board of Education vice president, will be recognized for her years of dedicated service and leadership as a recipient of the 2020 Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award. This award is presented to individuals who have had a profound effect on public education in Nassau County. Ms. Lancaster has served on the

Freeport Board of Education since 2011. During that time, she has been an advocate for quality education for all children.



### HALF HOLLOW HILLS

#### Five Teachers Selected to Join New York State Master Teacher Program

Five of the district's teachers are part of a statewide group of 228 educators joining the New York State Master Teacher Program this year. Paumanok Elementary School's Zoe Chiam and Kim Lennon, West Hollow Middle School's Chris Regini, High School West's Mitch Troise and High School East's Amanda Kavner were selected for the highly competitive program. The NYS Master Teacher Program consists of outstanding teachers recognized for their dedication to providing the most innovative STEM education to their students, their commitment to professional growth and their enthusiasm for sharing their successful practices with colleagues in their schools, districts and regions. Throughout their four-year participation in the program, Master Teachers receive an annual stipend while engaging in peer mentoring and intensive content-oriented professional development opportunities throughout the academic year. Master Teachers also work closely with preservice and early career teachers to foster a supportive environment for

the next generation of STEM teachers, and participate in and lead several professional development sessions each year.



### LINDENHURST

#### Director of Health, PE and Athletics Nationally Recognized

Anthony V. Amesti, director of health, physical education and athletics, has been recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as a certified athletic administrator. The NIAAA is a national professional organization consisting of all 50 state athletic administrator associations and more than 12,000 individual members. To earn this distinction, Mr. Amesti was required to demonstrate the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination.



### EAST ROCKAWAY

#### Board of Education President to Receive BOCES Partner Award

Board of Education President Keith Gamache will be honored

# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



### NEW HYDE PARK-GARDEN CITY PARK

#### Board of Education Appoints New Director

The Board of Education appointed Andrew Scimeca as the district's new director of facilities and transportation, effective Dec. 9, 2019. Mr. Scimeca, a Mastic resident who has more than 12 years of experience working for school districts, previously served for four years as the custodial supervisor for the Connetquot Central School District.



### SACHEM

#### District Appoints New Executive Director for Special Education

Michael Saidens has been appointed the new executive director for special education. Most recently, Mr. Saidens served as principal of Tamarac

Elementary School for 10 years. Prior to that, he served as principal of the Early Childhood Center and Pre-School in East Islip, as assistant principal of Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School in the Harborfields Central School District, and was a teacher at Mills Pond Elementary School and Accomsett Elementary School in the Smithtown Central School District. Mr. Saidens holds a Bachelor of Science degree in management from Clemson University, a master's degree in special education from Dowling College and a professional diploma in school district administration from Stony Brook University. He also holds New York State certification in school district administration, elementary education and special education.



### SAYVILLE

#### 2019 NYS AHPERD Teacher of the Year

Elizabeth (Beth) Bolger, physical education teacher at Lincoln Avenue Elementary School, was awarded the 2019 New York State Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The Teacher of the Year Award honors individuals for excellence in teaching and

overall performance in the disciplines of physical education at the elementary, middle and secondary levels, adapted physical education, health education and dance education. It is an extremely competitive award and the selection process is extensive. A qualified teacher would be nominated by their regional board. Besides producing many award-winning Get Moving NY videos with her students for the annual competitions, in 2017 she was the recipient of the Suffolk County Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year award.



### SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER

#### Educator Selected to Conduct at Prestigious Music Festival

Albert G. Prodell Middle School music teacher John Samonte was selected to conduct the fifth and sixth grade Honors Choir at the Rensselaer County School Music Association Festival. Similar to the Suffolk County Music Educators Association Festival, high-achieving music students from throughout Rensselaer County are selected to participate in an honor ensemble. Samonte's experience as a guest choral conductor will positively influence Prodell's outstanding

student-musicians, who are also committed to their craft.

### SOUTHAMPTON

#### New Intermediate School Assistant Principal

The Board of Education has appointed Justin T. Cobis assistant principal of Southampton Intermediate School, effective Jan. 20. Mr. Cobis joins Southampton from the Riverhead Central School District, where he was a social studies and physical education teacher since 2007. Previously, he served as summer school principal of Riverhead High School and worked as an administrative intern in both the Office of Professional Development and the Office of Health, Athletics and Physical Education. Mr. Cobis is also actively involved within the community. During his time in Riverhead, he organized an annual 5K race to benefit the Riverhead Running Club, a nonprofit he founded to support the sports of track and field and cross-country. Mr. Cobis holds a bachelor's degree in adolescent education and a master's degree in school building leadership from St. John's University, as well as an advanced certificate in school district leadership from Canisius College.







## **BALDWIN** **Students Take Home Five Gold Awards**

Baldwin High School students attended Virtual Enterprise International's Long Island Trade Show and Business Plan Competition at LIU Post. The students, who are a part of the Global Business and Entrepreneurship Academy, competed with their Virtual Enterprise company, SuppLI, and won gold in the following categories: Booth Design, Company Branding, Newsletter, Radio Commercial and Sales Material. The students assume leadership roles, including CEO, create ventures, develop marketing plans and conduct transactions with other simulated businesses around the world.

Foundation for the Advancement of Children and Pupil Personnel Services, the tower garden is being utilized in the second grade classes on a rotational basis. Students are working as horticulturists, planting, cultivating and harvesting the bounty from the garden. Through lessons with Ms. Pisani, the students are learning that eating healthy foods can help to prevent and reverse disease and that plant foods are the matrix for cells to grow healthy. Following each harvest, the students are treated to a salad party where they taste the items grown and even take some home to share with their families.



## **COMSEWOGUE** **Souperbowl 54**

The students at Terryville Elementary School were excited for Super Bowl LIV and created a generous way to show support for their favorite team. The student council decided to play their own "Souperbowl" by decorating large boxes to represent the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs and then asked their peers to fill the boxes with soups and other foods. Whichever team collected the most food wins Souperbowl 54. More than 200 items were collected and will be donated to local food pantries including St. Gerard Majella Roman Catholic Church in Port Jefferson Station and the pantry at Comsewogue High School.

## **COPIAGUE** **Learning the Basics of Coding**

Students in Maryanne Basso's third grade class at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School are learning the basics of programming using Ozobots. The small robots can identify lines, colors and codes on both digital surfaces, such as an iPad, and physical surfaces, such as paper. The students worked collaboratively to build their paths on paper for the Ozobots to follow. They worked together to troubleshoot their programming and fix any errors in the path.



## **BETHPAGE** **Thoughtful Thursday Brings Birthday Joy**

Students from Central Boulevard School created birthday signs, pictures, bookmarks and cards for homeless children as part of their monthly Thoughtful Thursday activity. The activity was in partnership with Birthday Wishes, an organization that provides birthday celebrations for local families and children experiencing homelessness. All birthday materials created by students from Central Boulevard will be delivered to Birthday Wishes recipients as a "party in a box."



## **CONNETQUOT** **Growing a Garden of Nutrition**

Duffield Elementary School students are learning the importance of proper nutrition and economic sustainability thanks to a tower garden initiative coordinated by Youth and Family Services Coordinator Joanne Pisani, M.S., L.M.H.C. Secured through donations from the Connetquot

Education and Prevention Training Program at North Shore University Hospital. They were accompanied by Junior-Senior High School social worker Kristen Mednick. The purpose of the program is to educate high school students about HIV/AIDS and provide training on how to communicate prevention information to their peers. Approximately 85 high school students from seven different districts participated in the training and attended workshops on HIV/AIDS, STD prevention, cultural issues, sexuality and relationships, other aspects of teen health and good decision-making. The newly certified Peer AIDS Educators will meet with their previously certified counterparts to prepare age-appropriate HIV/AIDS lessons which will be presented to the district's fifth and sixth grade students in the spring.



## **FARMINGDALE** **Third Annual VEX Robotics Tournament**

Farmingdale High School hosted its third annual VEX Robotics Competition. Close to 80 teams participated, comprised of high school and middle school students from across southern New York State. Farmingdale High School has three robotics teams, two of which competed in the Tower Takeover game, a two vs. two robot stacking challenge. Team VEXistential Crisis made it to the semifinals, finishing seventh out of 38 teams. The tournament was a first for the Weldon E. Howitt Middle School Junior Dalers Robotics team, who, along with 10 other middle schools, chose to compete at the high school game level. They earned the Excellence Award, which qualified them to join two of the high school teams (who qualified previously) at the 2020 Southern New York State VEX Championship Tournament.

## **FREEPORT** **Winning Big at DECA**

Freeport High School DECA Club members have a lot to celebrate, as 11 students were named winners and five other students received honorable mention during the Nassau County DECA Regional Competition.



DECA is a competition-based club that prepares high school students to become leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management careers. A DECA competition involves a written component, a 100-question exam and an interactive component (role-playing) with a professional serving as a judge. Freeport students were among 600 students across the county who participated in this prestigious competition.



## **GARDEN CITY** **School Unveils Book Vending Machine**

Students at Stewart Avenue School were overcome with joy when the school unveiled a new book vending machine during a special schoolwide assembly. Thanks to the support of the Carle Place Stop & Shop and funds raised through the school's Box Tops for Education effort, the book vending machine will serve a dual purpose: reward students who demonstrate that they are maintaining a positive school climate while also promoting reading throughout the building. Students who are seen performing random acts of kindness will be awarded a token which they can insert into the machine to take home a book of their choice. Stewart Principal Linda Norton turned the unveiling into a surprise for students. One student from each class was called up on stage to ask a question and possibly guess what the tall, covered object at the end of the room might be. Once the cover was pulled from the book vending machine, the children were ecstatic.



## **HALF HOLLOW HILLS** **AP Art Students Create a Field of Recycled Flowers**

Mrs. Uttendorfer and the Hills East AP Art History class created a recycled flower field as their 2020 Art Installation. Their goal was to draw attention to climate change

and environmental issues by creating something beautiful using items that are used and discarded every day. The students collected thousands of used plastic water bottles and then cut and crafted them into painted flowers with recycled stems and leaves. The flowers were placed in a natural formation along two sides of a sidewalk outside of the school to create a field of recycled flowers. They were arranged in a color gradation to emphasize pattern and light, while mimicking a sunset and the passing of time. This art installation draws inspiration from "The Gates" by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, an installation in Central Park from the winter of 2005, and from Ai Weiwei's "Sunflower Seeds."

school reforms. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fino Celano, Principal Joan Keegan, and Director of World Languages, Language Immersion and English as a New Language Francesco Fratto welcomed the attendees. The delegation is working to bring educational reforms to schools and teacher training programs in the Chinese province. The members wanted to know how Herricks builds capacity in its teachers, in all content areas, to engage and excite students through student-centered lessons.

Candidates must be team captains, of Hispanic descent and have a grade point average of 90 or higher. Receiving the Leaders of Tomorrow award is a great honor, as it represents being a good athlete, a good scholar and a good person. Juan has run track since eighth grade and is a mid-distance sprint runner. He has broken several school records, some dating back 50 years. He is a three-time All-County athlete and has earned one All-Long Island and two All-Conference selections.

for students to explore vibration, reverberation and sound waves through engaging, hands-on design challenges and observation-based tasks.



**LONGWOOD**  
**Pouches for Australian Wildlife**

First-graders in Rachel Walczyk's class at Coram Elementary School are learning how small acts of kindness can make a significant impact for those in need. So far, the students have sewn close to 40 pouches for animals affected by the severe wildfires in Australia. As part of their nonfiction reading and writing units, the students learned about the different animals that live in Australia and how vast areas of habitats have been destroyed by the massive bushfires. The students traced and sewed the pouches, which vary in size to fit different species of wildlife, including kangaroos, koalas, wallabies and bats. In addition to donating fabric, teachers and students held fundraising events to help offset costs. The students are hoping to complete 100 pouches, which will be sent to a group in Maine organizing relief efforts.



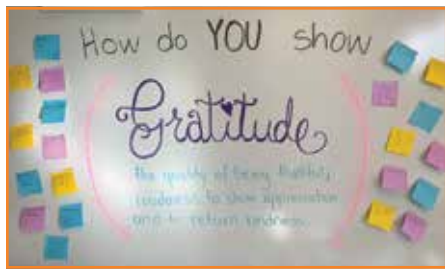
**NORTHPORT**  
**Virtual Enterprise Students Visit LIU Post**

Students from Northport High School's Virtual Enterprise courses attended the Long Island Regional Conference and Trade Show Exhibition at LIU Post. This event brings together more than 1,900 students, educators and business leaders. The school's companies, Port & Co. and Karuna Port, were two of more than 100 firms that represented the virtual economy on Long Island. Firms competed in trade show booth design, salesmanship, impact marketing and more. Both firms chose students to present their business plan and field questions about their company in front of a panel of judges. Port & Co. received a gold award in website design. Both firms will attend the international trade show in Brooklyn, which brings together 5,000 students from 18 states and nine countries.



**SMITHTOWN**  
**Setting a Growth Mindset Goal**

Eighth grade students at Great Hollow Middle School combined their academic lessons with social and emotional learning. The students worked on setting a growth mindset goal before starting their review for their social studies midterm. They can check in with one another for a peer assessment of their goals and also with their teacher throughout the upcoming semester to assess how they are achieving their goal and if they are on the right path. The goals can be tangible or cooperative and the students can choose to share them or keep them private.



**HAMPTON BAYS**  
**Students Take on Kindness Challenge**

The students and staff at Hampton Bays Middle School continued an ongoing tradition of celebrating kindness by participating in the 30-day Teach Kindness challenge. As part of this nationwide initiative, the middle school community took part in hundreds of research-based lessons on kindness, all at no cost. The middle school created a sustainable kindness ritual that focuses on keeping kindness as an important part of a positive school culture. In 2018, Hampton Bays Middle School was named a finalist in the Middle School Kindness Challenge. Through this recognition, the school was able to purchase the materials and equipment used to promote active and inclusive lunch and recess periods.



**THREE VILLAGE**  
**Lunch With a Scientist**

R.C. Murphy Junior High School has initiated a program to help students better understand STEM-related careers and professions called Lunch with a Scientist. During the first event, the science department welcomed Dr. Sheri B. Glazer, who spoke with a group of seventh graders about the science of dentistry and the various career options in her field. Dr. Glazer discussed how dental science requires a strong understanding of mathematics and biology, beyond the mouth. She also spoke about the different types of dentistry there are and the supportive professionals who assist each dentist. The project tied well into the grade-level curriculum, which focuses on life sciences, and the department looks forward to welcoming additional speakers in the future.



**MASSAPEQUA**  
**A Runner and a Leader**

From the time Juan Arango joined Massapequa High School's varsity track and field team as a freshman, his teammates looked to him as a leader. Now a senior, Juan was recently rewarded for his efforts in receiving the Leaders of Tomorrow Award at the 26th annual U.S. Air Force Hispanic Games. Juan, who was nominated for the award by coach Rich Degnan, was honored along with other students from New York during a special ceremony.



**SACHEM**  
**Students Tune Into STEAM Sounds**

The science of sound was on display during an activity at Hiawatha Elementary School, as fifth grade students in Tara Sigilo's class rotated between five stations in the building's STEAM room. Activities included building a harp with straws and rubber bands, determining which surface causes the greatest vibration with a tuning fork and hitting a drum with different drum sticks to see which material would cause the most disruptive vibration. The lesson served as a creative opportunity



**HERRICKS**  
**Educators From China Pay a Visit**

As a result of the district's strong partnership with the Asia Society, Herricks High School was selected as one of a handful of schools nationwide to be visited by a 24-member delegation from Guangdong, China. The delegation included university deans, researchers and government officials charged with teacher training programs and



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# Forum

The Forum can be accessed online at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us). If you have information about your school district that you would like to share, please send it to Kathy Beatty at [kbeatty@syntaxny.com](mailto:kbeatty@syntaxny.com).