On The Line... Online

Please Join Us!

Happenings from around the District

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a hilarious Tony award-winning musical comedy about a fictitious Spelling Bee set in an equally fictitious Putnam Valley Middle School. Please join us on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, November 16th - 18th at Garden City High School for this competition within a show. Show times are 4 p.m. on Thursday and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Attention Senior Citizens: A special performance will be provided for our senior citizens by the Garden City Teachers’ Association (GCTA) at 3:30 p.m. in the high school library.

Kindly RSVP for the senior citizen dinner and show by calling (516) 478-2222. To purchase all other tickets, click here.

Important Dates

The remainder of November includes several important dates for parents:

- **November 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**: Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
- **November 22**: District-wide Early Dismissal
- **November 23 & 24**: Thanksgiving Recess
- **November 27**: Two-hour delay for Superintendent’s Conference Day
- **December 4**: Student Achievement Report

Connect to Learn More

This e-newsletter includes many hyperlinks to videos, websites, and other resources. Simply click any maroon, italicized body text or indicated images to learn more.

Garden City High School Earns National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence!

On November 7th, Garden City High School Principal Nanine McLaughlin accepted the school’s 2017 National Blue Ribbon School award as an “Exemplary High Performing School” from the U.S. Department of Education at the Gala Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Mrs. McLaughlin is pictured above with Ms. Aba Kumi, Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program (center), and Mrs. Margaux Calemmo, library media specialist (right), during the ceremony. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap.

“I was so proud - It was overwhelming; amazing,” said Mrs. McLaughlin of the experience. “We have great kids, the support of our parents, administration, and our Board of Education. We always keep in mind what’s best for the students, while we constantly strive to do better.”

Pictured below is Mrs. McLaughlin with Assistant Principals Kevin Steingruebner (left) and Dave Perrotta with the school’s Blue Ribbon plaque and banner. The banner will be flown over the school for a few days before being framed for permanent display at the school.

Superintendent Search Update

Using the Leadership Profile, the district’s consultants are currently narrowing the field to a slate of five or six semifinalist candidates to be interviewed by the Board. After the initial interviews, the Board will invite the top two or three finalist candidates for a second interview. The Board expects that the first two rounds of interviews will be completed by the second week of December with a goal of identifying the top candidate by late December 2017 or early January 2018.

Once the successful candidate has been identified, the Board will move forward with visiting the candidate’s current school district to solicit information about the candidate. In addition, an in-depth background check, including exploration (continued on page 2)
of the candidate’s social media presence, will be conducted by an outside agency.

Once again, the Board thanks the community of Garden City for its participation in the process of developing the Leadership Profile, and looks forward to meeting the slate of candidates in the very near future. The Board wants to assure the community that it will be diligent in its efforts in the coming weeks to seek out the best candidate whose experience, leadership accomplishments, and educational philosophy will be an excellent match to our school district and community. To view up-to-date information about the Board’s Superintendent Search, click here.

Summer Learning

The benefits of summer learning for students are well documented, but what about for teachers? This summer, 45 of the district’s K-12 teachers attended Technology Boot Camp (right), an intense, three-day peer-teaching program designed to share best practices for technology use in the classroom. Organized by district staff developer Lauren Maguire, the program offered teachers the opportunity to expand their knowledge and proficiency with Chromebooks, iPads, flipped classroom instruction, and more. “Attending the Tech Boot Camp this summer inspired me to try new techniques in the classroom,” said high school teacher Allison Moss (above). “I discovered new ways to use Chromebooks to create interactive formative assessments. In addition, I was able share information with my colleagues about using Google Classroom in all grade levels, K-12. I loved the opportunity to explore new technologies, like Breakout EDU, which simulates an escape room and promotes collaboration and, literally, thinking ‘outside the box.’ I am planning on incorporating this into an Earth Science lesson in December.”

Middle school science teacher Dr. Paris Zaferiou also attended the Boot Camp: “I am personally using the movie making tools for science video contests with my science research elective classes.”

“We wanted to help teachers to use what we already have in the best way,” explained Director of Educational Technology and Staff Development Dr. Rita Melikian. “The teachers are seeking the best use for their classrooms; its interest- and usefulness-based learning.”

Device-wise, all grade 4,5, and 6 students have access to iPads or Chromebooks. “This fall, we provided iPads for all kindergarten and first grade students on a 3 students-to-1 device basis. Primary-level teachers are using the devices during their literacy blocks; later in the year, they will be used for math and coding.”

At the October 17th Board meeting at Stewart School (left and below), coding for “sprites” (screen characters) and robotic manipulation was demonstrated by students of computer teacher Judith Conforti. Thanks to the GC PTA, students now have many more small robots on which to practice their coding skills. As interesting as technology is in and of itself, Dr. Melikian keeps the focus on helping teachers and students alike to become more mindful technology users. “We want to keep a balance by asking questions: Why am I using this device? Is it going to give me something more than I can do with a pencil and paper? No one device is a panacea; every child is different and learns differently. What we can say with certainty is that the district is providing the same kinds of tools that are being used in higher education and in the workforce.”

Tune In!

Speaking of new technology, Stratford Avenue has a new way to share school news with the community - it’s very own student-run news show. To view its first broadcast, click here or on the image above.

Storybook Parades

This year’s Storybook Parades and Halloween festivities across the district included a rainbow of smiling faces and colorful costumes portraying students’ favorite book and movie characters. To view an album of photos, simply click here or on the storybook characters below!

Trojan spirits soared on October 14th as the 2017 Homecoming Parade wound its way through the Village to Garden City High School for the Homecoming Football Game. This year’s Parade was led by Grand Marshal Dr. Robert Feirsen (right), retired Superintendent of Schools, along with School Board and Cabinet members.

On the newly renovated high school turf field, it was a 38-0 shutout against Carey, led by top players including junior Trevor Yebas-Kodie (above). Equally as thrilling, performances by GCHS’s Marching Band, Lady Trojan Cheerleaders, and Kick Line lifted everyone’s spirits. Also included as part of the half time ceremony was a presentation to the Menges family in honor of the Class of 2015’s Bobby Menges. As a heartfelt memento, Brittany Costa (right, ’15), a classmate of Bobby’s and former drum major to the Marching Band, presented Bobby’s “shako” hat with signatures from band members to Mrs. Liz Menges and brother Andrew.

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who helped to make the day’s events so positive! To view an album of images from the Parade and Game, click here or on the cheerleaders-in-flight photo above. Clicking here or on the Kick Line image will link readers to a video of the team’s stunning halftime performance. Go Trojans!
Nat’l Merit Scholarship Semifinalists
Congratulations to three Garden City High School seniors (front row, left to right) Brandon Gong, Jack McKernan, and Julia Choi for being named as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. The students are pictured above with Principal Nanine McLaughlin (left) and their guidance counselors Karen Whiston, Patrick Doyle, and Jeanne Kennedy.

Nat’l Merit Commended Students
Eleven seniors qualified as National Merit Scholarship Commended Students. Pictured here are (front, left to right) Seungmin Woo and Stephen Iovino; (middle) Kaylah Bozkurtian, Noelle Sweeney, Catherine Schick, Isabel Cara, Katie Yuen, Guidance Director Gina Christal; (back) Principal McLaughlin with Alan Jian, Evan Jozkowski, Michael Liberopoulos, and Lucas Franco.

National Broadcom MASTERS & National 3M Young Scientist
Garden City Middle School science research student Austin Crouchley was selected as one of 30 National Broadcom MASTERS and one of 10 National 3M Young Scientists for his solar energy device. Austin competed as a National Finalist in Minnesota (3M) and Washington, D.C. (Broadcom) in October. “The best part of these competitions was connecting with other students my age who are interested in science and solving the many challenges we face today in our society,” shared the young scientist.

Regional Siemens Science Finalist
High school senior Alan Jian was recently selected as one of 11 Long Island high school students selected as Regional Finalists in the 2017 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Alan’s team developed chemotherapeutic substances that had a powerful effect on three difficult cancers. He is pictured with Dr. Phyllis Watson, AM retired University of Sydney Professor and world leader for international medical information systems. Alan moves on to competing for a spot in the Siemens finals in Washington, D.C. next month.

National AP Scholars
For 2017, Garden City High School students sat for 1,254 Advanced Placement (AP) exams, and achieved the second highest total since 2008 of students scoring 3+ (5 being the highest). The total number of Scholars noted by The College Board was 222, a tie with the total achieved in 2015, and the second highest ever achieved for the school. For National Scholars, the total for 2017 was 14, tied with 2016 and 2011. Congratulations to all our students for challenging themselves by sitting for these annual National exams.

National Top 10 Schools
Garden City High School was again recognized by WISE (Working in Support of Education) as one of the top 10 schools in the nation for financial literacy. Teachers Reid Sclafani (back, right) and Dr. Erin McKinstry (back, right) were also named Gold Star teachers. They are pictured with (left to right) Christos Yannios, Cameron Aries, Ryan McCormack, Nathan Parini, Samantha Wu, Gianni Canaleitch, Trent Biscone, Matt Koslo, Kyle Merritts, Matt Flanagan, and Tyler Wuchte.

All-National Honor Ensembles
Two Garden City High School students were selected to the National Association for Music Education’s 2017 All-National Mixed Choral Honor Ensemble. Pictured above are (left to right) Dr. Nina Prasso, coordinator of Music & the Arts, Alexis Grace Spera (alternate), Rose Kelly, and music teacher Mr. Stephen Mayo. Selected students will perform at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fl., on November 28th and 29th. The concerts feature top conductors leading 670 of the nation’s top music students.

NYSSMA All-State Musicians
Nine high school music students were selected as All-State Musicians for this year’s NYSSMA All-State Conference, November 30th to December 3rd. Pictured are (left to right) music teachers Dr. James McCrann and Mr. Stephen Mayo with (back row) Alexis Grace Spera, Alan Jian, Rose Kelly (alt.), Liam Dougherty, Brandon Gong; (front) Amanda Nastasi, Stephen Iovino, Seungmin Woo, Margaret Chiang, teacher Mrs. Margaret Gullotta, and coordinator of Music & the Arts Dr. Nina Prasso.

NYSHP Scholars
Recognized by The College Board, high-achieving PSAT/NMSQT NHRP students hail from across the U.S. and its territories abroad. Three high school seniors were named National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholars. Pictured above are (left to right): Principal McLaughlin, Evan Jozkowski, Julia Beckmann, and Tyler Soutar with Guidance Director Gina Christal.

Making their mark!

(continued on page 4)
Making their mark!

Long Island Scholar Artists
Pictured at the Long Island Scholar Artist Opening Reception on September 14th with (left to right) art teacher Shawn Uttendorfer and Dr. Nina Prasso, Coordinator of Music & the Arts, are seniors Alan Jian and Kaylah Bozkurtian, who were each honored as a Long Island Scholar Artist (music) and Award of Merit winner (art), respectively. Alan will be featured in an upcoming issue of Newsday. Both students will be honored at a Gala Reception at the Tilles Center, LIU-C.W. Post in the spring of 2018.

Nassau County PARP Award
Locust Principal Dr. Jean Ricotta (left) and former Locust PTA Director Donna Krauss spearheaded a “Pick a Reading Partner” (PARP) “Blast Off to Reading” initiative that recently won the New York State Nassau Region level award. New York State PTA sponsors region PARP awards annually. Each PTA Region chooses one outstanding program to be judged by NYS PTA members. PARP awards were distributed at the NYS PTA Convention held on November 3-5 in Niagara Falls.

Adelphi Leadership Prize
Ten Garden City High School seniors were awarded the 2017 Adelphi Prize for Leadership. This year’s recipients, recognized for their exemplary academic achievement and community service, are pictured with Dr. Ted Cannone (left) and Principal Nanine McLaughlin (right): (back row, left to right) Alexandra Hildreth, Kaylah Bozkurtian, John O’Hare, Layne Meyer, Maximilian Schwenk (Front row) Caroline Rieger, Seungmin Woo, Jessica Pedone, Hope Kelly, and Caroline Madigan.

Happenings, . . .

Veterans Day
In honor of Veterans Day, Stewart and Hemlock schools invited local veterans to participate in special Veterans Day programs.

Eleven veterans visited Hemlock School (above) on November 9th to meet the students, share a bit about their history in the military, and to answer the student’s questions. They shared photos and artifacts of their service, such as military uniforms, and listened as the students recited a poem.

At Stewart School (above), 15 veterans joined together for breakfast, a whole-school program that included patriotic songs, an introduction of each veteran highlighting their current and past service, and a reading of several Mail Call Honor Flight letters by the students. The assembly was followed by small group interviews in the fifth grade classrooms, and lunch. To view a video of each event, click on the photos above.

Marching Band
The high school Marching Band, pictured above at the 2017 Homecoming Parade, ended its season on a high note with its top score this year at the US Bands National Finals in Allentown, PA on November 4th. The Band earned first place finishes at three previous events and achieved a second place finish at the New York State Championship in October. “We are so proud of the students this year for all their hard work,” shared director Daniel Della Monica.

Standing Together Against Bullying
October 25th was National Unity Day, a day marked across the country by all who stand up to bullying. By wearing orange, Garden City students and staff showed support, hope, and unity. The district’s schools marked the day with a variety of age-appropriate anti-bullying activities. To learn more about the different programs at each school, click here.

Garden City Public Schools
56 Cathedral Avenue
Garden City, New York 11530
www.gardencity.k12.ny.us

Inspiring Minds,
Empowering Achievement,
Building Community

Angela Heineman
President

Tom Pinou
Vice President

Robert Martin
Trustee

William C. Holub
Trustee

Alan Groveman, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Catherine Knight, Ed.D.
Coordinator of Public Information