Community Bulletin Board

Spring Has Sprung!

As trees and flowers welcome spring with a show of vibrant color, so, too, spring activities are blooming all across the district. Earth Day celebrations, such as Stratford’s second grade Recycled Hat Day parade (below), challenge students to re-purpose throwaways into wearable art. At Locust, Arbor Day plans with the Village (right) are on track for the school’s annual tree planting.

At Hemlock (above), seeds and bulbs planted last fall for the school’s STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) initiative are sprouting in response to students’ TLC and the warm spring sun.

Race For A Cure

Garden City Teachers’ Association’s 7th Annual “Race For A Cure” to benefit the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center will take place, rain or shine, on April 16th starting at Garden City High School:
8:45 a.m.: 1 Mile
9:15 a.m.: 5K (3.1 mile)

Students are adding their support by donating bottled water for racers who complete the event. More information is available on the district website: www.gardencity.k12.ny.us.

Expanded STEM & More!

Summer Learning Opportunities

The district’s classrooms will again be filled with the sights and sounds of learning and fun this summer as Camp Invention and the Summer Enrichment Program return to Garden City Public Schools. NEW this summer is the addition of Invention Project, a STEM challenge program for rising and current middle school students. Registration for Camp Invention and Invention Project is now underway. Parents can sign up students by following the links posted on the district website under “Recent News.”

At Stratford, the Summer Enrichment Program will offer diverse classes for Pre-K through 11th-graders. Complete information and registration forms will be posted to the district’s website beginning May 1st. For additional questions, please contact program director Joe Papa, 478-1540.

May 17th Vote

On the Ballot:

1. District Budget
2. Permission to use Capital Reserve Fund for three capital projects: HS turf field & track renovation, HS auditorium HVAC, MS breezeway windows
3. Board of Education Trustee Election

Fast Facts: Proposed 2016-2017 Budget:

- For the fifth consecutive year, stays within the district’s tax levy limit
- Requires a simple majority for passage
- Enriches the robust high school academic program that prepares our students for college
- Expands investment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Provides resources for technology upgrades
- Includes funds for security upgrades
- Maintains RtI, the continuum of special education services, and opportunities for diverse learners

All budget and voter information is posted on the district website: www.gardencity.k12.ny.us.

Remaining Public Session

Budget Meetings

All meetings are held at 8:15 p.m. at Garden City High School

April 19: Regular Board Meeting
District Budget Adoption

May 10: Regular Work Session
Budget Hearing

May 17, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Budget Vote, Permission to Utilize Capital Reserve Fund, and Board Trustee Election

Garden City High School
Achieving Recognition at the National, State, & Long Island Level Across the Curriculum

Best Communities for Music Education
For the fourth consecutive year, Garden City has been designated as one of the nation’s Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. Congratulations to the district’s music teachers, and Garden City’s outstanding and dedicated musicians!

Nat’l Merit Scholarship Finalists
Five Garden City High School seniors were named 2016 National Merit Scholarship Finalists. Pictured here are (seated, left to right): Jillian Dane, Yianni Flouskakos, Elisabeth McGannon, Elizabeth Rieger, and Daniel Vuoso; (standing, left to right) guidance counselors Tim Casale, Jeanne Kennedy, Natasha Khan, Jim Malone, and Principal Nanine McLaughlin.

Intel Science Semifinalists
Congratulations to two seniors selected as 2016 Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists. Pictured above are (left to right) Principal Nanine McLaughlin, Intel Semifinalists Dessie DiMino and Elizabeth Rieger, science research teacher Dr. Steven Gordon, and science coordinator Dr. Elena Cascio. Dessie and Elizabeth are two of only 300 selected students nationally.

Carnegie Hall Honors Concert Choir
Garden City High School senior James Murphy (inset) performed as a member of the Honors Concert Choir at Carnegie Hall on February 7th in the 2016 High School Honors Performance Series. Students representing 47 states and five countries rehearsed and performed for the concert. “Without question, this was the best high school honor choir I have ever heard,” commented Mr. Steven Mayo, high school vocal teacher.

American Legion
Junior Julia Foxen, (center) pictured with social studies coordinator Jeannette Balantic (left) and Principal Nanine McLaughlin, participated in the Students Inside Albany Conference sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Educational Foundation. The program is an intensive four-day training experience designed to immerse students in the process by which public policy is proposed, enacted, and changed in New York State.

LISEF-SSP Broadcam MASTERS
On March 10th, sixth grader Austin Crouchley, pictured here with (left to right): middle school science research teacher Dr. Paris Zafereiou, science coordinator Dr. Elena Cascio, and high school science research teacher Dr. Steven Gordon, won first place at the Long Island Science and Engineering Middle School Fair (LISEF), regional affiliate of Intel ISEF and Broadcom MASTERS™. Austin’s win earns him a spot in the upcoming national-level competition.

NYSSEF/LISEF Grand Awards
Pictured above are science research students who, out of over 500 LI students, won Grand Awards at the March 10th Long Island Science & Engineering Fair (LISEF) (left to right): sophomore Brandon Gong (2nd), who went on to win an Honorable Mention at the state level (NYSSEF), and seniors Elizabeth Rieger (2nd), who placed 2nd at NYSSEF, Yianni Flouskakos (3rd), who went on to win 3rd at NYSSEF, and Dessie DiMino (3rd).

www.gardencity.k12.ny.us
**Achieving Recognition at the National, State, & Long Island Level Across the Curriculum**

**National Yes I Can! Winner**

Congratulations to senior Michael Lohrer, pictured here with (left to right) Principal Nanine McLaughlin, teacher Katherine Squires, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Lynette Abruzzo, and Assistant Director Louis Bonadonna, for being chosen by the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) as a 2016 Yes I Can award winner. Michael will be honored at the CEC Expo, St. Louis, MO on April 15th.

**"Superior" Literary Magazine**

The 2015 Inkspots, the high school's student-produced literary magazine, was ranked “Superior” in the 2015 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) program. Pictured above are staff members still attending the high school (others graduated last June) and advisors Catherine Oriani (standing, left), Margaux Calemmo, and Denise Holz (standing, right).

**NYS Teacher of the Year SemiFinalist**

Garden City High School special education teacher Katherine Squires (left) was recently named a Semi-Finalist in the 2017 New York State Teacher of the Year Program. Ms. Squires is pictured here with high school principal Nanine McLaughlin. Ms. Squires has distinguished herself as an exceptional teacher and now moves forward in the NYS competition as a candidate for one of 10 2017 Finalists – announcement is scheduled for May 1st.

**Boys State**

Congratulations to juniors James Rumsey (center) and Gabriel Ragusa for being selected as Garden City High School’s representatives for this year’s Boys State. They are pictured above with Principal Nanine McLaughlin. James and Gabriel will stay at SUNY Morrisville this summer to attend legislative sessions, court proceedings, assemblies, and law-enforcement presentations, thanks to support by the American Legion Auxiliary.

**Girls State**

Pictured above with Principal Nanine McLaughlin (right) and 6-12 social studies coordinator Jeannette Balantic (left) are Garden City High School’s 2016 delegates to the American Legion Auxiliary Empire Girls State Program. Juniors Gabrielle Frandina (second from left) and Mairead Pfaff were selected from a pool of candidates to travel to SUNY Brockport this summer for a week-long legislative session with over 350 delegates from across New York State.

**Exploravision**

Sophomores Seungmin (Mina) Woo and Caroline Rieger, pictured here with (left to right) Board Vice President Tom Pinou, Assistant Superintendent Dana DiCapua, science coordinator Dr. Elena Cascio, and science research teacher Dr. Steven Gordon, were selected as Toshiba Exploravision Honorable Mention winners from over 5,000 entries from the U.S. and Canada.

**Toshiba Exploravision Honorable Mention**

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**Latin Award**

Congratulations to high school junior Natalie Abatemarco (center) who was chosen as the recipient of this year’s Suffolk Classical Society Scholarship. She is pictured with Latin teacher Kathleen Durkin and world language coordinator Peter Giacalone. Natalie received a certificate attesting to her scholarship and a check for $250.00 at the Certamen (Latin Quiz Bowl) on March 15th at Stony Brook University.

**All-County Art Scholarship Winner**

Senior Sarah Jones, pictured above with her work and district coordinator of music & the arts Dr. Nina Prasso, was awarded a Nassau County Art Supervisor’s Association Scholarship Award at the March 20th All-County Art Exhibition held at Farmingdale State College. Sarah’s Advanced Placement Studio Art concentration is figure drawing. She will be studying to be an art teacher at college in the fall. Sarah explained, “I’ve always loved working with children.”

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**LI Go APE Exhibition**

Congratulations to four Advanced Placement art students in Shawn Uttendorfer’s high school classes for being accepted into the Art League of Long Island’s Go APE Exhibition. Christina Kutulos (left), was one of the 11 Long Island students to receive an Award of Excellence. Pictured left to right are: Christina Kutulos, Antoinette Nicholas, teacher Shawn Uttendorfer, William Demaria, and Julia Kammer.

**NYS Teacher of the Year SemiFinalist**

Garden City High School special education teacher Katherine Squires (left) was recently named a Semi-Finalist in the 2017 New York State Teacher of the Year Program. Ms. Squires is pictured here with high school principal Nanine McLaughlin. Ms. Squires has distinguished herself as an exceptional teacher and now moves forward in the NYS competition as a candidate for one of 10 2017 Finalists – announcement is scheduled for May 1st.
High School: Christina Kutulos (12), colored pencils. “Christina searches for a smile in everything she does,” said AP Studio Art teacher Shawn Uttendorfer. “As part of her concentration, she is illustrating work that appears to be just objects at first glance but with a little time you might notice the smiley face looking back at you.”

High School: Maddy Colucci (12), photography. Teacher Jason Karp explained Maddy’s “Back to the Future 2,” stating, “This study was based on the work of Irina Werning who recreates old personal photos by trying to match environment, setting, clothing, expressions, etc. Maddy totally captured all of the nuances of the original photo at right featuring her two now-older siblings.”

High School: Tom Allen (9), pencil. Students in Claire Ellerman’s Art 1 classes were challenged to create a still life illustrating perspective, a cropped composition, and tone-on-tone shading. Tom succeeded using overlapping hockey skate images in a dynamic design.

Stewart: Grace Wrightington (4), paint. “Students were inspired by the works of artist Keith Haring,” said teacher Melissa Pashayan. “We created our own cartoons in his style.”

Middle School: Sarah Ma (8), cut paper. “Working from photographs, students drew self-portraits using a grid system,” shared teacher Dennis Fediw. “From these, the students created a stencil. Sarah Ma cut this exquisite stencil which showcases her attention to detail and dedication to the project.”

Middle School: Allison McDonald (8), mixed media. In Mrs. Biondi’s eighth grade art class, Allison created this “elements of art” project using marker, watercolor, and a linoleum print. “The results are colorful, expressive, and dynamic,” said Mrs. Biondi. “The student composed a beautiful piece of art that demonstrated a complete understanding of aesthetics and the elements of art: line, shape, form, space, texture, value, and color.”

Primary Schools: Locust: Warm and “Cool Cityscape” (above) Braeden (Brady) Wong (1), marker, pastels. “Students were asked to imagine standing on a sidewalk and looking up at the skyscrapers of the city,” explained primary school art teacher Saeeda Rahaman-Thompson. “Using pastel, they used color theory to color the composition, warm colors for the sky, and cool colors for the buildings.

Hemlock: “Winter Birch Trees and Cardinals” (center) Kylie O’Leary (K), collage. “Using collage and the elements of texture and shading, students recreated the beauty of a birch trees in winter. Our cardinals were made using fractions to divide a circle into halves, and then into quarters.”

Homestead: “First Snowman” (bottom) Casey Psaki (1), crayon, marker. “Students rearranged circles to create a snowman. Using crayons and markers, students created a winter scene from their unique perspective.”
Eighth Grade Art Reception and “Reveal”

Please join us any time from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11th at Garden City Middle School for the annual Eighth Grade art reception and “reveal” of the self-portraits created during the eighth-graders’ final year in the middle school. The self-portraits will be added to school's ongoing permanent art installation.

High School: Tess Allen (10), foamcore, paint. “This artwork was inspired by Hari and Deepti, artists well known for their large-scale shadow boxes,” explained teacher Amanda Marino. “The students created a thematic landscape with at least eight foamcore layers. Each layer was cut individually by hand and put back together in a box the students built. The project explored depth, value, composition, and space. Although this was a very time consuming project, the outcome is absolutely stunning.”

Middle School: James Adams (8), acrylic on canvas. “This project was inspired by the silkscreen prints of Andy Warhol,” said teacher Joe Wilkonski. “The students used stencils cut from their self-portrait drawings. They enjoyed the process and are very happy with the results!”

Above at right: Eighth graders work on self-portraits that will be part of a permanent installation at the middle school - see “reveal” invitation above.

Stratford: Kyra Kavourizis (4), paper, crayons, India ink. Students in George Lucas’ fourth grade classes created Aztec wax batiks. By drawing in the stylized manner found in Aztec art, coloring with crayon, wetting and crumpling the paper, washing with India ink, and then rinsing, the work takes on a cloth appearance. “I really enjoyed studying the Aztec culture,” said Kyra. “Mr. Lucas really makes learning fun.”

Eighth Grade Art Reception and “Reveal”

This March, the high school and middle school presented their spring musicals, Mary Poppins and Grease, respectively. The high school welcomed 2,250 audience members and the middle school sold out all shows. Complete photo albums of each musical can be viewed by navigating to the schools’ “Photo Gallery” drop down from the district website: www.gardencity.k12.

Spring Musicals

www.gardencity.k12.ny.us
In the Classroom
World Languages Update

In today’s world, learning a World Language is crucial to success,” explained world languages coordinator Peter Giacalone. “Multilingualism has become more than just important, it has become a necessity. During Foreign Language Week, March 7-13, various activities took place at the middle and high school to stress how ‘Languages Enrich Your Mind’.” The week was designated as Foreign Language Awareness Week by proclamation from the Governor (left), and classrooms were bustling with special activities centered on language learning. For example, students in high school Latin classes shared and discussed the benefits of Latin study in a variety of career paths. Members of Latin Club made and posted “Did you know?” signs throughout the high school, sharing fun facts they learned in Latin class. Forty-one students competed at Levels I-IV in the Suffolk County Classical League’s annual Certamen (Latin Quiz Bowl) competition at Stony Brook University. Junior Natalie Abatemarco (featured on page 2) was recognized as the recipient of the Suffolk County Classical League’s Scholarship for outstanding performance in Latin. Students in Mrs. Brunetti’s high school classes (right) engaged in a cultural activity that reflected the culinary contributions made by both Italians and Italian Americans. “The project was appreciated for its academic value and gustatory pleasure!” shared Mrs. Brunetti. At the middle school, seventh grade World Language students executed “Murals with a Message” during Foreign Language Week to demonstrate the value and power of world languages. Artistic murals (left) were created that extolled the benefits of language learning including empowerment and greater perspective. In expressing their appreciation for languages, students gained greater awareness of the inter-connectedness of world languages and cultures as a result of globalization.

Advocating for Public Education
How You Can Help

Adding your voice in support of public education has never been more important. Local legislators make decisions based upon input from their constituencies. And supporting your local public school system has never been easier. It’s just a click away if you take advantage of the PTA’s “Stand up for GCPS” Action Center online forms (www.gardencitypta.org).

Garden City’s Board of Education’s Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) continues to work to educate and advocate, such as with the March 4th meeting with (above, left to right) Assembly Members Charles Lavine, Michelle Schimel, Ed Ra and NYS Senators Charles Marcellino, Jack Martins, and Kemp Hannon. The meeting was in collaboration with Super LAC members from Manhasset and North Shore to focus on three of the major issues our school districts currently face: loss of district closings this winter, a second snow make-up regular school day will take place on Friday, May 27th.

11th Annual Preschool Directors Meeting

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Feirsen (above) welcomed over 40 preschool directors from local preschools to a hands-on learning session in early March at Locust School hosted by Garden City’s three primary principals. Attendees were provided an overview of the district’s primary school educational program with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and STEAM (add Art), and the scope of support services available to students. Sharing primary school classroom activities provides opportunities for the preschool directors to align lesson plans for rising Pre-K students with the district’s curriculum.

Locust teachers Rose Huntington and Kristine Justino presented information about the school’s “Green Team” recycling initiative and the tie-in to STEM/STEAM concepts. Hemlock’s courtyard garden project was shared by Principal Audrey Bellovin and teachers June Sayers and Meredith Petry. Homestead Principal Dr. Viscovich (below), along with teachers Donna Welch and Kristen Thompson, demonstrated how coding and small interactive robots are incorporated into classroom learning.

Important Dates

Grades 3-8 NYS Assessments:

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>April 5-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>April 13-15</td>
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Due to the weather-related school closings this winter, a second snow make-up regular school day will take place on Friday, May 27th.

www.gardencity.k12.ny.us
Congratulations to the high school Varsity Kickline team for capturing first place in the Class IV Long Island Kickline Association finals held on March 13th. The team is pictured above and left in October as they wowed the Homecoming football game crowd during halftime.

Congratulations to 10 Garden City athletes who qualified for the winter New York State Finals! In Boys Swimming & Diving, six high school students competed: Ryan Brown, Chris Crafa, John Crafa, Liam Gaffney, John Gaffney, and Pierce Senken. Senior Ryan Brown (left), who captured two Nassau County first place finishes in the 500m freestyle and the 100m breaststroke, breaking the school and county record for the 100m, went on to capture third at the state level in both events. He is pictured (inset) with the Nassau County and NYS medals and plaques he received for his achievements. Ryan also received the Matt Lynch Sportsmanship Award at the Section VIII banquet held on March 16th. In Winter Track & Field, Stephanie Gerland (1500m), Tianna Biscone (triple jump), and Owen Lucano (600m) (right) competed in the Winter Track & Field meets representing Garden City. In rifle, senior marksman Alina Martinez (far right) finished fourth in the state and won the sportsmanship award for Section VIII. Senior wrestler Tim Schmelzinger also competed at States, placing 7th in his weight class.

The girls fencing team upset the number one seed to win the Nassau County Championship - its third in four years. The team (left), and Long Island Fencing Coach of the Year Michael Kreidman (right), were honored at the March 16th Board meeting with Superintendent Dr. Robert Feirsen and Trustee William Holub (left). Capturing 11 Nassau County medals at the Individual Fencing Championships were (right, left to right) Donal Mahoney (silver), Dessie DiMino (silver), Tia Petrides (gold), Elizabeth Stryisko (silver), Charlotte Osborn (bronze), Emma Doyle (6th). Absent were Bridget Stryisko (4th), Cole Sonner (3rd), Michael Snyder (3rd), James Ostrowski (4th), and Matthew Quigley (6th).

Coaches of the Year

Congratulations to coach Jim Hegmann for being named the county’s Boys Basketball Coach of the Year. Jim is pictured above with team members after the Elmont game victory.

Boys Bowling

For the 4th time since 2012, Boys Bowling captured the Conference title. The team is pictured above with coach Crystal Boyd (back row, right). The team has won for three consecutive years: 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Hofstra Leadership Conference

Six athletes attended the 13th Annual Student Athletes As School Leaders at Hofstra on February 2nd. Pictured are (left to right): teachers Marisa Reichman and Paul Cutter with Erik Wortmann, Andrew Nagel, Joseph Basile, Katherine Galzerano, Celia Concannon, and Emily Clarke.
of the districts’ boards and PTA voiced their concerns about shrinking school budgets, loss of local control, and the state’s “one size fits all” approach to public education reform.

As the Board of Education continues its work in support of Garden City Public Schools, it is vitally important that taxpayers stay informed about local, state and federal issues. A good place to start is on the district’s website: www.gardencity.k12.ny.us, or by attending an upcoming board or PTA meeting (dates posted on the website).

Congratulations to three outstanding individuals who were honored for their service at the SCOPE Annual School District Awards (left to right): Tammy Sutton, Michelle Kaiserman, and Millie Joyce.

The event’s program cited the following as the reasons for their respective honors:

Tammy Sutton, a teacher aide in a Locust School special class, received the Support Staff Award. Mrs. Sutton has established a positive rapport with all students as she effectively implements behavior management plans. She understands how to facilitate social opportunities for children and strives for every student to be successful with academic tasks. Mrs. Sutton has gone above and beyond the expectations of a teacher aide’s role and Locust School is fortunate to have her as a member of the school community.

Michelle Kaiserman was presented with the Community Service Award. She has provided outstanding service to Garden City Public Schools through her leadership of the PTA’s Budget and Legislation Committee and her extensive participation on the School Board’s Legislative Affairs Committee. Michelle has worked tirelessly to ensure that the school community is well informed about developments at the local, state, and federal levels that affect Garden City’s programs. She works with the Board of Education and school district administration to represent the voice of parents and to advocate on behalf of the schools. Michelle is uncompromising in her commitment to improving the lives of children, and her work is deeply respected by all.

Millie Joyce received SCOPE’s Teacher Service Award. She is a first grade teacher at Locust School who plans motivating lessons and embraces technology in the instructional program. Mrs. Joyce is eager to expand her content knowledge and has taken a leadership role in the area of math. She presents annually at NCMTA’s Family Math Day and Make Math Count Conference. Mrs. Joyce is a consummate professional who makes every effort to maximize student achievement.

Honored for Service (continued from page 6)