



LINDY SPOTLIGHT

LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lindenhurst Union Free School District

OCTOBER 2011

Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year



West Gates kindergarteners enjoyed their first day of school.



Albany Avenue students were all prepared for the opening of school.



Allegany Avenue students, teachers and Principal Laura Newman are all smiles on the first day of school.

On September 7, the Lindenhurst School District welcomed back students, staff and administration at all eight schools. Students filled the buildings with smiling faces, eager to begin what promises to be another successful school year.

The new year brings some changes to the district, as a few new administrative appointments have been made.

- Frank Picozzi is the new associate principal at Lindenhurst High School, working closely with Principal Daniel Giordano.
- Derek Schuelein is the new assistant principal at Lindenhurst High School.
- Janna Ostroff is the new science coordinator.
- Linda Domanico is the interim principal of Daniel Street Elementary School.
- Donna Smawley is the principal of West Gates Elementary School.
- Lisa Omeis is the principal of Albany Avenue Elementary School.
- Doug Ward is working with the

practical arts department at the middle school and Derek Schuelein is working with the practical arts department at the high school.

The district will continue to raise its academic standards to ensure that Lindenhurst students are not only excelling on state testing, but are also prepared with the skills needed to become college and career ready.

January Regents Reinstated:

As a result of \$1.5 million in private funding, the January 2012 Regents have been restored. The New York State Education Department originally eliminated these Regents exams due to lack of funding.

Tax Cap:

For the 2012-2013 school year, the district faces a tax cap of 2% or CPI, whichever is less. We anticipate additional cuts in expenditures and more "tightening of our belts" to achieve this. As always, the district's administration

and Board of Education continue to work hard to do more with less and look for ways to enrich the curriculum and program provided to students without placing a high burden on taxpayers.

Assessment Testing:

The New York State Assessments are scheduled for the Spring of 2012.

- Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA): April 17 and 18
- Grades 3-8 Mathematics: April 23 and 24
- Grades 4 and 8 Science Performance: May 23 – June 1
- Grades 4 and 8 Science Written: June 4

According to Superintendent Richard Nathan, "We look forward to continued success in all areas during the school year and encourage parental and community participation within our schools. With everyone's support, the students will be able to reach their highest potential."

Math and English Assessment Results

The Lindenhurst School District announced results for the New York State Math and English Language Arts (ELA) assessments taken by all students statewide in May 2011 for grades 3-8.

Lindenhurst students performed better than the Suffolk County average on most exams. "We are continuing to raise the bar for student achievement," said Superintendent Richard Nathan. "The district is always striving for higher standards to ensure all students succeed."

The State Education Department made changes to this year's exams to make them better predictors of college and career readiness. The tests were longer, with more multiple-choice and essay questions on the ELA exams.

The percentage of Lindenhurst students who met or exceeded state proficiency standards are as follows:

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)					
LINDENHURST					
67.6%	64.4%	61.9%	65.8%	57.8%	60.3%
SUFFOLK COUNTY					
63.6%	64.1%	61.4%	66.3%	57.1%	57.4%
MATH					
LINDENHURST					
65.5%	74.1%	75.6%	77.6%	77.3%	65.7%
SUFFOLK COUNTY					
65.9%	72.9%	73%	71.9%	74.9%	70.3%

LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Lindenhurst, New York 11757

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Lindenhurst School District Welcomes New Teachers



Lindenhurst School District welcomed new teachers at a professional development orientation.

The Lindenhurst School District officially welcomed new full-time and part-time teachers for the 2011-2012 school year. Prior to the start of the school year, they gathered for a professional development orientation organized by the Owl Teacher Center.

The orientation included presentations by the superintendent, the personnel staff, the Teacher Center director, and the officers of TAL. The new teachers participated in informational discussions on the district's benefits and those provided by the union. They received information about the district mentoring program, professional development, and services provided by the Teacher Center.

The new teachers are: Francine Anetrella, Laura Birnbaum, Christopher Brady, Charles Brostowski, Caitlin Curran, Lynn Dietz, Andrea DiTaranto, Nicole Pappas, Sara St. Germain, and Marissa Unger.

ARMS Program Expands

Lindenhurst High School teachers Danielle Bottachiari, Carol Frederico, Jean Jacobs, Tracey Miller, Christine Sanfratello, and John Slokovitz have worked hard to make the Academic Recycled Materials and Supplies (ARMS) program a success.

Throughout the school year, these teachers supplied students, other teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, and psychologists with supplies to pass down to students in need at each district school. They also worked closely with the custodians to salvage any leftover school supplies and clothing that could be donated, many of which were left in lockers at the middle and high schools at the end of the school year.

The backpacks, along with lunch boxes, binders, loose-leaf paper, glue sticks, pencils, and folders were distributed to Lindenhurst students. In addition to the school supplies, ARMS donated large bags of clothing to local veterans' homes and gave student backpacks and supplies to Stepping Stones social work program, which is aimed at keeping students in school and preventing truancy.

If you are a parent in hardship whose children can benefit from school supplies, contact Ms. Bottachiari at dbottachiari@lindenhurstschools.org. Please write "ARMS Program" in the subject line and include the ages of the children, the grade they are entering, and a phone number where you can be reached. You will be contacted when the supplies are ready for pick-up at the high school.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Welcome back to the 2011-12 academic year! On September 7, 2011, approximately 6,600 Lindenhurst students walked through the doors of their schools to begin the school year. Our students come to us with clean slates, a year older and hopefully a year wiser. They have the opportunity to refocus, renew and reinvent their journey from childhood to adulthood. In a similar fashion, the summer offered our educators the opportunity to regroup, reflect and refine ideas. I want to acknowledge our teachers, administrators and a variety of support staff at both the school and district levels who work hard every day to ensure that all of our students are challenged and are achieving at high levels in an environment that is safe and caring.



The 2010-11 school year was one filled with many challenges and opportunities. After numerous workshops and a great deal of dialogue, we closed E.W. Bower Elementary School beginning in 2011-12. This will result in an anticipated annual savings of approximately \$1.5 million. The Bower students are split between Harding Avenue and West Gates. We passed a budget for 2011-12 with an anticipated increase of 6.89% in the tax levy, despite only a 2.23% increase in expenditures. The disparity in the percentages was caused by the loss of \$3 million in state aid for 2011-12. The Board of Education worked hard to create this comprehensive budget which meets the educational needs of our students, satisfies all federal and state mandates, honors all of our contractual obligations, and, we believe, is fiscally responsible to the community.

We have made some changes in our administrative staff. Frank Picozzi will work closely with Dan Giordano as the associate principal of the high school. Derek Schuelein has replaced Al Cirone as assistant principal at the high school. At our elementary schools, Linda Domanico is the interim principal of Daniel Street Elementary School, Donna Smawley is the principal of West Gates Elementary School, and Lisa Omeis is the principal of Albany Avenue Elementary School. January Regents exams have been temporarily restored as a result of \$1.5 million contributed by private benefactors. In addition, for 2012-13 we face a tax cap of 2% or CPI (whichever is less). We can certainly anticipate additional cuts in expenditures and even more tightening of our belts in order to achieve this.

New regulations have been adopted governing the Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of classroom teachers and building principals. The new regulations provide for a two-year phase-in of the requirements concerning the development of the APPR plan. For 2011-12, the plan will be applicable to all classroom teachers of ELA and math in grades 4-8 and their building principals. For 2012-13, the plan must be in place for all classroom teachers and their principals. Each teacher will be evaluated based upon a "composite effectiveness score," which is defined as the total effectiveness score out of 100 points assigned to a teacher or principal for an evaluation conducted. For teachers, forty percent (40%) of the score is based upon measures of student performance and sixty percent (60%) is based upon other performance criteria. At least 40 of the 60 points must be based on classroom observations using one of several approved rubrics. Classroom teachers and principals will be rated as highly effective, effective, developing or ineffective based on their effectiveness score.

Michelangelo was a Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and engineer. He once noted that every block of marble has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it; what Michelangelo called "to free the angel in the marble." When I met with staff prior to the opening of school, I indicated that "free the angel in the marble" describes the job we have as educators. We look out each day upon a quarry of rough-hewn children and we begin the task of discovering the unique adult within each child. We need to look at each student as an opportunity to change the future for all that is possible and all that is good.

Have a wonderful school year!
Richard Nathan

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Lindy Spotlight is the school district's community newsletter, containing pertinent information on the activities and issues of the district, published six times annually, and mailed free of charge to all district residents. The district reserves the right to publish information pertaining to students regarding school activities, academic honors, sports programs, scholarships, etc.

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The Lindenhurst School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational educational opportunities, without regard to gender, race, color, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Coordinator Anthony V. Amesti at 867-3090 and/or Section 504 Coordinator Louis J. Aiello at 867-3100 at the Central Administration Building, 350 Daniel Street, Lindenhurst, New York 11757.

A Message from The Board of Education

The Board of Education has been busy preparing for the school year and is ready to take on the challenges and opportunities each year brings. Raising the academic standards and the achievements of all students continues to be one of the top goals.

Districtwide, we will be looking to aim higher, and focus on increasing both our mastery and passing levels, on our grades 3-8 state assessments, as well as

the high school Regents exams. The Board of Education is committed to working together to make the Lindenhurst School District the "Home of Great Schools."

Educating our children is a team effort, and we know that when parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, and the Board of Education all work together towards the same goals, we will make great things happen!



The 2011-2012 Board of Education.



Rall courtyard displays pinwheels.

Pinwheels for Peace Created at William Rall

On September 21, 2011, William Rall Elementary School in Lindenhurst took part in an international art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace, by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace at the school.

Students at Rall created pinwheels. As part of the creative writing process, the students wrote their thoughts about war and peace, tolerance, and living in harmony with others on one side. They also used art forms such as drawing, painting and collage to visually express their feelings. On the International Day of Peace, they planted their pinwheels with special pencil bottoms in the Rall courtyard.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started by two art teachers from Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. In the first year, approximately 500,000 pinwheels were planted in over 1,325 locations. Last year, more than 3.5 million pinwheels were spinning in over 3,500 locations throughout the world.

Keep a lookout for the pinwheels – the spinning of the pinwheels in the wind will spread thoughts and feelings about peace throughout the country and the world! For more information, go to <http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com>.



Ms. Masterson's fifth graders after they planted pinwheels with art teacher Valerie Maguire (right).

Janna Pistiner Ostroff

Joins Lindenhurst School District as Science Coordinator



The Lindenhurst School District welcomes Janna Pistiner Ostroff as K-12 Science Coordinator, replacing Steve Young. She was appointed at the Board of Education meeting in August.

Ms. Ostroff previously served as a high school science teacher and teaching and learning coordinator at The Renaissance Charter School in Manhattan. She also served as the science and math coach. In addition, Ms. Ostroff taught chemistry and biochemistry at The Beacon School in New York City.

Ms. Ostroff graduated summa cum laude from Colgate University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry and Education. She also holds a Master of Science in Earth Science and Comparative and International Education from Oxford University in the United Kingdom and received her New York State Administration and Supervision Certificate from Hunter College.

"I am excited about this opportunity to improve the academic achievement of all Lindenhurst students," said Ms. Ostroff.

Lindenhurst School District Enhances Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The Lindenhurst School District released the federal guidelines for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. This year for the first time, all applications are being processed at central administration. "We believe this will further enhance confidentiality, as all applications are processed through the business office," explained Assistant Superintendent of Business Jacqueline Scio. "The entire process has been made more efficient."

Due to an uncertain economy, many families are turning to school programs for help. To apply for the program, each household must complete an application, previously sent to all households within the district. Additional forms are available at each school. The district encourages parents and guardians to review the application carefully for eligibility requirements.

All information contained in the application is kept confidential. Students are given an identification card, and with electronic processing, there will be no differentiation between students receiving free/reduced and those receiving prepaid meals. All participants of the Lindenhurst Schools Free and Reduced Lunch Program will remain anonymous.

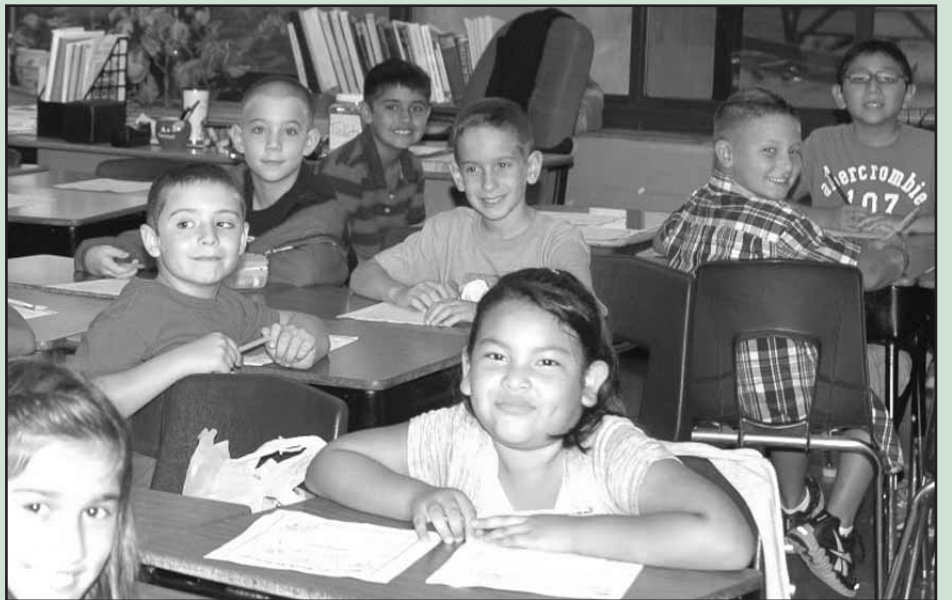


First Day of School at Lind...

Albany Avenue



Alleghany Avenue



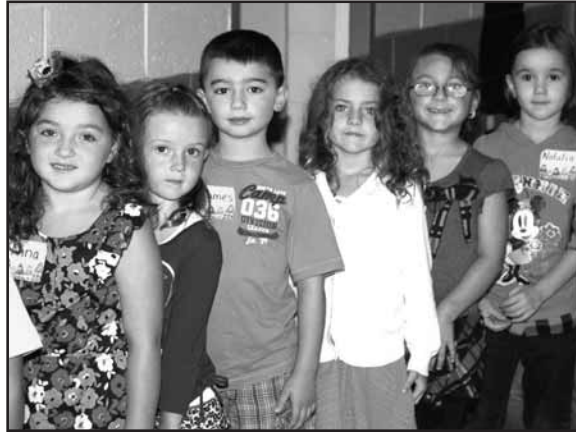
Daniel Street



Scenes from the First Day of

Enhurst Elementary Schools

Harding Avenue



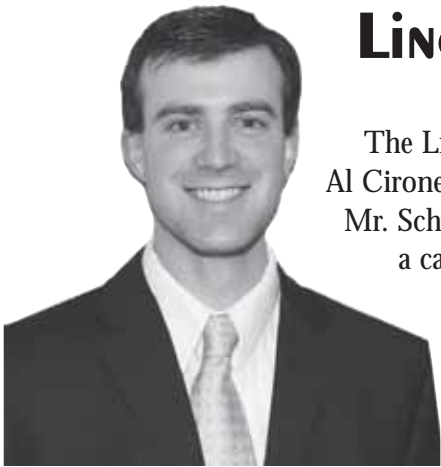
West Gates



William Roll



Lindenhurst High School NEWS



Lindenhurst High School's new assistant principal, Derek Schuelein.

LINDENHURST SCHOOL DISTRICT WELCOMES DEREK SCHUELEIN

The Lindenhurst School District welcomes Derek Schuelein as Assistant Principal for Lindenhurst High School, replacing Al Cirone. He was appointed at the Board of Education organizational meeting.

Mr. Schuelein served as assistant principal at Jane Addams High School in the Bronx for the past three years. Jane Addams is a career technical education school, similar to BOCES. Prior to becoming assistant principal, he was a department chairman and taught social studies.

Mr. Schuelein graduated from Pennsylvania State University, College of Education, and received his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and Social Studies. He received his master's from The City of New York's Lehman College in social studies education and his educational administration certification from State University of New York New Paltz.

"I hope to encourage positive change and work with the administration team here at Lindenhurst High School," said Schuelein. "My background will add to an already established team."

Lindenhurst School District Announces Changes to High School Attendance Policy

The Lindenhurst School District recently announced changes to the high school attendance policy. The new policy no longer allows students to make up absences, however students are still required to make up all missed work and it is the responsibility of the student's responsibility to initiate make-up assignments.

The new policy also calls for the initiation of additional communication between parent/guardian, administration and students when course credit is in jeopardy as a result of poor attendance record prior to students exceeding the number of allowable absences. Conferences will be held to advise students of these excessive absences.

Regular school attendance is vitally important to a student's academic achievement. It is important for students and parents to be familiar with the Lindenhurst School District's High School attendance policy. The objective of the policy is to establish minimum attendance requirements for the granting of academic credit for all courses.



Welcome to Lindenhurst High School, Mr. Picozzi.

High School Greets Ninth Graders

Incoming freshmen received warm greetings at Lindenhurst High School's ninth-grade orientation. The graduating class of 2015 received their schedules, listened to Principal Daniel E. Giordano speak, and viewed a video presentation. Student Council members were on hand to assist with the presentation, and Peer Leaders offered tours, advice and moral support to incoming students.

New to the high school are Derek Schuelein as Assistant Principal and Frank Picozzi as Associate Principal.



First day of school at the high school.

Students Receive Scholarships from Annual Steak Fry

Thousands of dollars for Lindenhurst High School students were raised through the 53rd Annual Larry Troiano Memorial Steak Fry, sponsored by the Lindenhurst Kiwanis Club. This year eight seniors were awarded \$15,000 in scholarship money. The scholarship fund is open to any resident of Lindenhurst. Lindenhurst Kiwanis has raised more than \$355,000 through the years.

The event was held at Fireman's Park, where participants enjoyed food, music, and raffles. High School Key Club members assisted in making the event a success. "Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Steak Fry so successful," said Jo-Ann Boettcher, Event Chair and Lindenhurst Kiwanis Club Vice President. "We would also like to recognize Outback Steakhouse for their generous food donations."



Members of the Steak Fry committee, headed by chairperson Jo-Ann Boettcher, gathered with district administrators, Key Club members, and Lindenhurst High School scholarship recipients.



Lindenhurst High School students enjoyed the Steak Fry.

Sixth-Grade Orientation Welcomes Students



Sixth-grade students at orientation.



Sixth-grade students and moms enjoyed the middle school orientation.

Incoming sixth-grade students were introduced to the wonderful world of Lindenhurst Middle School before school opened. The program began with Principal Frank D. Naccarato, Jr. giving advice to students and parents. "Get involved in activities," Mr. Naccarato encouraged as he discussed some of the middle school rules. Mr. Naccarato described the events of a typical day at school as well as the various clubs offered to students. He also talked about the core values of the middle school – Honesty, Integrity, Pride and Discipline.

Students were given tours, schedules and a bagel breakfast in the cafeteria, courtesy of the Parent-Teacher Association. Students and parents purchased new green LMS Master Key locks, T-shirts and shorts. Guidance counselors were available to discuss schedules. Eighth-grade members of the National Junior Honor Society also assisted during the orientation.



Parents and students review schedules with guidance counselors.



Students were able to purchase gym shorts at orientation.

Middle School Students Wear Red, White and Blue



Middle school students, teachers and administrators dressed in red, white and blue to commemorate the tenth anniversary of September 11.

To Remember Those Lost on September 11, 2001

Students Walk for Childhood Cancer Research



Girls and Boys Volleyball teams united for the walkathon.



(L-R) Rene Renna, Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, Philip Renna, Village Trustee Jodi Caravella, Board of Education trustee Mary Ellen Cunningham and Superintendent Richard Nathan.



Athletes walked around the middle school track.

The Christina Renna Foundation held a walkathon and blood drive on Sunday, September 18, at the Lindenhurst Middle School track. Athletes from Lindenhurst Middle School and Lindenhurst High School walked around the track to raise more than \$3,400 in support of the Christina Renna Foundation.

The Christina Renna Foundation is dedicated to supporting childhood cancer research and furthering awareness and education through the support of cancer groups and outreach programs for the direct support of

those in need. For further information, please visit www.crf4acure.org.

Christina was a Lindenhurst High School athlete who passed away from cancer a few years ago. Her father, Philip Renna, is a former president of the Lindenhurst School District's Board of Education. The Renna family donated gold shoelaces to all fall sports athletes to heighten the awareness of children's cancer.

"We would like to thank everyone for coming out and supporting us for the annual walkathon and blood drive," said Mr. Renna.

Bulldogs Football Season Begins

In the first week of the season, the Lindenhurst Bulldogs were defeated by the defending Suffolk County Champions William Floyd 41-7. "We moved the ball well at times," said head coach Nick Lombardo. "But the Bulldogs were not able to put the ball in the end zone." The team was down 41-0 at the half. In the second half, Ken Skon took over for quarterback and the offense began to show some pop. "This is a good team and we will be ready for the next game," said Lombardo.

And they were ready for the next game. A week later, the team made some big plays and defeated the Patchogue-Medford Raiders 7-6 in a tight defensive game. In the third game, Lindenhurst defeated Brentwood 13-0. The Bulldogs rushed for 229 yards. On October 1, the team had a strong first half, beating Central Islip 35-12. Also, the Bulldogs beat Ward Melville 30-8.

"This year's team has a more balanced offense," explained Lombardo. "We have a number of formations." Every game is important to win, if the team wants to make the playoffs. Many of the key players are expected to make an impact, including several who were all-division last year.



**COME OUT AND
SUPPORT THE
BULLDOGS!**

Upcoming Home Football Schedule:

October 22 - 2 p.m. vs.
Sachem East (Homecoming)

October 28 - 6 p.m. vs
Sachem North



VOLLEYBALL OFF TO A GOOD START

BOYS:

The Lindenhurst High School Boys Varsity Volleyball team opened the season with the Northport Spikefest Tournament. The team went 7-3 in the 12-team tournament. Tournament Most Valuable Player was Joseph Curry, who had eight kills and three assists. The team defeated Bay Shore 3-0, as Travis VonHolt had nine kills and three blocks. The team also beat Half Hollow Hills 3-0. Gerard Gigante contributed with eight kills and Chris DeLucie had 27 assists.

GIRLS:

The Lindenhurst High School Girls Varsity Volleyball team beat the West Islip Lions 3-2 in the opening match of the conference season. The team faced a tough challenge, but prevailed in five sets. The team won a non-conference game against the Copiague Eagles.

The volleyball girls also defeated Bay Shore and Smithtown West in early season matches.

Senior Alyssa Marchino and junior Emily Clemens were names in *Newsday's* Girls Volleyball Players to Watch in 2011. According to *Newsday*, "Defending Long Island champion Lindenhurst has two All-Long Island returnees, junior setter Emily Clemens and senior outside hitter Alyssa Marchino, putting the Bulldogs in prime position to contend for a state title."

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS HONOR MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK AND SWIMMING TEAMS

Congratulations to the modified Boys Swimming team under the leadership of Brian Washington, Tom Cornelia and Steve Cornelia and the modified Boys Track team under the leadership of Dave Figalora and Doug Read for winning sportsmanship team awards for the 2010-2011 school year.

"While it may be after the fact, it is never too late to recognize the efforts in instilling the proper etiquette at various athletic contests and behavior in our middle school student athletes," said Coordinator of Athletics, Physical Education and Health Anthony Amesti. "Thank you for a fine job."



Top Row: Varsity Players - Aaron Coughlin, Rob Sarneckis, Brandon Hauser, Kevin Czopek and Dan Brzozka, Camper - Sean Coughlin. Second Row Mario Licari, Carl Palladino, Angel Reyes, Arthur Brzozka, Bryan Fondeur, Josh Coughlin, Rafal Bathija and Tom Navarro. Third row: John McCaffery, Kamil Wietrak, Brett Nofi, Nick Anzalone, Kevin Purdue, Justin Zotto, Shane Webster, Jack McCluskey, Justin Zotto and Cal McCluskey.

Not Pictured: Campers - Brandon Larnaitis and Ryan Hoffman, Varsity Player - Stew Warren, Coaches - Bret Kearney, Ed Pearson and Doc Farrel.

LINDY CAMP ENHANCES BASKETBALL SKILLS

The Lindenhurst basketball camp, run by three varsity basketball coaches and six players, was a huge success. The weeklong camp was attended by children ranging from ages 9-15 and focused on enhancing the basketball skills of the 22 athletes who participated.

"Everyone who participated enjoyed a great week," said Lindenhurst High School Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Bret Kearney.