



# LINDY SPOTLIGHT

## LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lindenhurst Union Free School District

DECEMBER 2009

### BUDGET PREPARATION BEGINS FOR 2010-2011

The Lindenhurst School District administration has begun the process to prepare for the 2010-2011 budget. New York State recently adopted a deficit-reduction plan that has no immediate midyear cuts to education. However, the state's plan may impact schools by using dollars from the federal stimulus program for 2010-2011.

The business office is currently analyzing and evaluating the needs of each individual school building, the district's athletic program, facilities, the music and art programs, technology and transportation. "We are researching all available options to lessen the financial impact of state aid reductions on our residents while maintaining our fine instructional program. We

were recently notified that 10% of our state aid payment, due in December, will be delayed until an unknown future date. This type of last-minute decision from the State is causing the district to have serious concerns about future state aid payments," stated Jacqueline A. Scio, Assistant Superintendent for Business.

During the budget process, the Board of Education will once again host special budget workshops throughout the month of March for the community. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend in order to educate themselves about the budget process.

The budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

### *Upcoming Board of Education Meetings*

**Business Meeting:**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2010 - 8 p.m.  
McKenna Administration Building**

**Special Workshop:**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2010 - 7 p.m.  
McKenna Administration Building**

**Community Forum:**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2010 - 8 p.m.  
Alleghany Avenue Elementary School**

**The Public is Welcome to Attend**

### Fifty-Six Students Honored with Presidential Service Award



*This year's Presidential Service Award honorees, with event co-chairpersons Gina Berrett and Julie Cicchetti, Antonio Martinez from Assemblyman Bob Sweeney's office, and Superintendent Richard Nathan.*

Fifty-six students from the Lindenhurst School District were recognized with the prestigious Presidential Service Award, given to students who complete a minimum of 50 hours of community service. Students were honored at the November PTA Council meeting, during which Antonio Martinez from Assemblyman Bob Sweeney's office presented the certificates.

Students who received the bronze distinction completed 50-74 hours of community service. They are: Leanne Aenlle, Taylor Amato, Nicholas Amon, Gabi Barone, Alyssa Berrent, Brittany Berrent, Bryan Berrent, Catherine Casella, Veronica Casey, Emily Daub, Michael D'Italia, Briana Eden, Jennifer Fucci, Kayla Geyer, Kristi Geyer, Annemarie Gigante, Natalia Golembiowski, Olivia Gonzalez, Amanda Gordon, Caitlyn Gregg, Shannon Griffin, Surena Henley, Alexa Irizarry, Sarah Kelly, Marlana LaVacca, Kyle Lindenberg, Airianna Lopez, Tyler Lowe, Gina Marie Masone, Cabel McCandless, Hara McCandless, Patricia McCarron, Julie McKenna, William McKenna, Michelle Micara, Samantha Provenzano, Kristin Puk, Julia Robinson, Jeana Saccone, Brandon Samedy, Stephanie Serwan, Julianna Sherlock, Karissa Smith, and Jillian Theal.

The two students who received the silver distinction, completing 75-99 hours of service, are Marissa Bott and James Henn.

Ten students were acknowledged with the gold distinction, completing over 100 hours of community service. These students are Christina Cardino, Vanessa Cardino, Tianna D'Italia, Doriann Lewis, Allison Rush, Alexandra Schnabel, Christina Schnabel, Nikki Sciascia, and Christina Taparata.

"We are extremely proud of this year's recipients," exclaimed co-chairpersons Gina Berrett and Julie Cicchetti.

LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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## Red Ribbon Week INSPIRES

Red Ribbon Week is the largest drug prevention campaign in the country. The campaign promotes intolerance towards the use of drugs, while encouraging students to reach their full potential by building strong character.

Paul Failla, a retired veteran of the Suffolk County Police Department, visited Alleghany and Harding Avenue Elementary Schools and spoke with fifth-grade students. He is also an educational consultant and a seasoned actor. "My program creates a positive climate, so students can have an impact on the lives they touch," explained Mr. Failla. Through humor and drama he helps students build self-confidence and leadership skills.

He presented a rap song that tells the story of a father giving advice to a child, including practical everyday advice, such as always tell the truth, say "please" and "thank you," and limit the use of swear words.

For the week, the schools united in fence decorating and tulip planting. With the theme "Planting the Promise," students planted 100 red tulips. Other Red Ribbon week events included writing assignments, and students were also encouraged to wear red. Bookmarks and pencils were distributed, courtesy of the PTA. "We encouraged students to discuss the events at home," explained Florri Krefsky, Red Ribbon Week coordinator and social worker. "When the tulips bloom in the spring it will be a beautiful reminder of Red Ribbon Week."



Educational consultant and actor Paul Failla gave an animated presentation to Alleghany and Harding fifth graders for Red Ribbon Week.

## RALL STUDENTS DONATE TO ST. JUDES

William Rall Elementary students completed grade-appropriate math problems and obtained pledges for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-thon.

The students raised \$572.

Participating students were Simrut Renu, Johnathan Mencarelli, Connor Miller, Gianna Rock, Anthony Rock, James Hassel, Jenna Torres, Arianna Pentecost, Jack Kelly, Victoria Vinning, Thomas Renick, Danielle Collins and Aaron Monroe.

The hospital has treated children around the world who are fighting diseases. The Math-a-thon enables the hospital to treat children whether their families have insurance or not. The money is also used to house families while their children are receiving medical treatment.

Kudos to math specialists Michelle Schor and Chris O'Connell, who coordinated the event. Through their hard work with this special program, students are helping to save the lives of children around the world.



Rall students who raised money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital with math specialists Michelle Schor and Chris O'Connell.

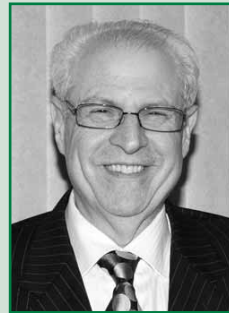
## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

I recently attended an open forum at which Dr. David Steiner, the New York State Commissioner of Education, spoke to an audience of Long Island school superintendents and administrators. Dr. Steiner told the audience that he has dedicated his career to advancing the idea that with a strong core curriculum, and rigorous teacher preparation and support, we can help students in every school district achieve and succeed. He talked about creating a better "connection" to what students are doing in real life. Dr. Steiner spoke about looking at new sequences involving the arts, economic literacy, and computer technology.

Dr. Steiner's goals are indeed lofty and admirable. But they came at the same time as Governor David Paterson threatened the Lindenhurst School District with approximately \$2.46 million in midyear cuts. This represents well over 5% of the district's current state aid funding. Although we have been told these cuts will not materialize for this school year, certainly these cuts or even larger state aid cuts will be part of the Governor's proposed budget for 2010-2011. The loss of state aid would be devastating to our schools.

Coupled with rising costs, state aid cuts would deplete our reserves and could easily lead to multiple layoffs, modifications in our fine educational program, and the elimination of extracurricular activities. We have worked hard to improve test scores and to be fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. Cuts such as the governor has promised for next school year will harm our students and negatively impact the Lindenhurst community. I urge you to contact the governor's office and our local legislators and tell them to look for alternate ways to deal with the State's ongoing budget deficit, and avoid hurting our children. We need to become active and educated so that our voice and our vision for the future are both acknowledged and represented by those who speak for us. We need to have a community voice.

On a different note, as the holidays are here, I want to stop and wish parents, students, teachers, and community members the richest gifts of the holiday season. In the days ahead, families and friends will gather to make memories, celebrate seasonal traditions, and share goodwill. May you experience the warmth of love, the promise of hope, and lasting peace in the New Year!



Sincerely,

*Richard Nathan*

Superintendent of Schools

For additional information to contact our state representatives please visit the district's website at [www.lindenhurstschools.org](http://www.lindenhurstschools.org) (under district news).

## Essay Winners Contain the Right Words

Lindenhurst School District congratulates the four winners in the "When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes" essay contest, sponsored by the Town of Babylon. They were recognized recently at a ceremony at Town Hall.

Albany Avenue Elementary School fifth grader Angelica Castro and third grader Sierra Bergen received a \$100 and a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond, respectively, for their first and third-place winning essays. West Gates Avenue Elementary School fourth graders Michael Morelli and Michael Zacchio each won \$75 U.S. Savings Bonds for their second-place essays.

The contest was open to elementary school students in grades 3-5 who reside in the Town of Babylon. The essay required a minimum of 75 words. A panel of veterans judged the contest and each winner had the opportunity to read their essay at the kickoff event at the Town of Babylon's Veterans Awareness Week program.

"We were excited to have student winners representing the Lindenhurst School District," declared Principals Lisa Omeis and Frank W. Grotschel.



Above, Albany Avenue winners Angelica Castro and Sierra Bergen with Principal Frank W. Grotschel. Below, West Gates winners Michael Morelli and Michael Zacchio with Principal Lisa Omeis.



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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 8-10 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 Ms. C. Clifton (867-3075) and/or Section 504 Coordinator David J. Cenerelli (867-3100) at the Central Administration Building, 350 Daniel Street, Lindenhurst, New York 11757.

## A Message from Board of Education President

**Edward J. Murphy Jr.:**

Dear Neighbor,

On behalf of the Lindenhurst Board of Education, I would like to wish you and your family a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. We hope that you had the opportunity to enjoy many of the wonderful programs our students are a part of this month, including the winter concerts.

We are very appreciative that the state legislature recently rejected Governor Paterson's proposed midyear state aid cuts. If enacted, Lindenhurst would have lost \$2.5 million dollars in aid this school year. Such cuts could have been detrimental to our educational program.

After the winter break, the district will continue developing our 2010-2011 budget. Considering the state's fiscal crisis, it appears less likely that Lindenhurst will be getting a fair state-aid increase for the next school year. There is now concern that even with the federal stimulus monies, we could receive less state aid than we did this year. This would be devastating to our children's education and community's tax rate.

Please reach out to our representatives in Albany and let them know that we cannot absorb any more of the state deficit. Senator Johnson, Senator Fuschillo and Assemblyman Sweeney's contact information are now on the district's website: [www.lindenhurstschools.org](http://www.lindenhurstschools.org) (under District News).

As a member of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association and the New York State School Boards Association, we will make sure the state is aware of the impact cuts will have on school districts.

In preparation for one of the most challenging budget cycles in decades, the Board of Education and administration are reviewing all of our options moving forward. The months ahead will require many tough decisions, some that we might not want to make, but have to. I assure you that we will, as always, do all we can to offer the best possible education for our children that our taxpayers can afford.

Sincerely yours,

Edward J. Murphy Jr.  
Board of Education President

## ROBERT DRENCKHAHN RECEIVES EAGLE SCOUT AWARD AT COURT OF HONOR

Lindenhurst High School junior Robert Drenckhahn was awarded the highest scouting honor, the rank of Eagle. He planned and supervised the construction of benches in the courtyard at Alleghany Avenue Elementary School, which helped him achieve this recognition.

Other activities and accomplishments that led Robert to receive this prestigious honor included raising money for the American Cancer Society, serving meals to the needy at St. John's Church, decorating the National Cemetery for Memorial Day, and assisting in the construction of a handicapped ramp at the Maritime Museum.

At Lindenhurst High School, Robert worked with staff on the demolition of the courtyard, is a member of the Character in Action Team, along with being a lifeguard at the pool, and currently serves as President of the Robotics Club.

"Robert has accepted the challenges of being an informed and responsible citizen, and ran with it," declared Superintendent Richard Nathan. "He is not only an asset to our high school, but is a well-regarded member of the Lindenhurst community."



Robert Drenckhahn (center) was recognized with the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor. Pictured with him are Superintendent Richard Nathan (left) and Board of Education trustee Mary Ellen Cunningham (right).

## Emotional Learning Training Highlights Conference Day



Cindy Singer discussed emotional learning.

Superintendent's Conference Day was highlighted by a special session giving insight into Emotional Learning, presented by Cindy Singer, Assistant Principal at East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School. She is a member of the executive board of the Long Island Social Emotional Literacy Forum.

This workshop gave educators the tools needed to bring Emotional Literacy into the classroom. Educators received a road map for integrating emotions concepts into their regular curriculum. Participants also learned strategies for teaching students how to manage their behavior. The lessons enhanced key outcomes in national educational standards including:

- **Cognitive functioning, including vocabulary, critical thinking, and creativity**
- **Mental and physical health, including self-awareness and self-regulation**
- **Social competence (social awareness and effective communication)**

Alleghany and Harding Avenue teachers were additionally trained in "Emotional Literacy in the Classroom." This staff development and curriculum implementation puts the Lindenhurst schools in the forefront regarding new guidelines to be introduced by New York State on Social Emotional Learning.

## 2009 Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to all of this year's winners in the Fire Prevention Poster contest, sponsored by the Lindenhurst Union Hook and Ladder Company #1 and the Liberty Host Company.

All of the district's seven elementary schools participated in the annual poster contest. Students were asked to either color or draw a picture based on the theme of fire safety. Submissions were judged and five winners from each school selected. To recognize the winners, the fire department travelled to each school and presented the artists with certificates.

Thank you to Harry Pro for coordinating this event for the past 16 years, and to Walter Kienle for assisting Harry in the truck. Kudos to all the students who participated in this year's contest.

### ALBANY:

First Grade – Brady Wilner  
Second Grade – Angelina Botero  
Third Grade – Dana Storm  
Fourth Grade – Luke Korzenko  
Fifth Grade – Jason Pickering

### E.W. BOWER:

First Grade – Alexis Provenz  
Second Grade – Sarah Ronessi  
Third Grade – Thomas Ramirez  
Fourth Grade – Nicole Zatkowski  
Fifth Grade – Julianne Salvia

### ALLEGHANY:

First Grade – Sebastiano Bartolotta  
Second Grade – Grace Boyle  
Third Grade – Colby Nilson  
Fourth Grade – Kevin Lindner  
Fifth Grade – Abigail Wallner

### HARDING:

First Grade – Grace Hennig  
Second Grade – Brian Mandel  
Third Grade – Nicholas Chichester  
Fourth Grade – Aslan Akturk  
Fifth Grade – Bailee Lawlor

### DANIEL:

First Grade – John D'Amato  
Second Grade – Rohan Hariharan  
Third Grade – Lauren Bickmeyer  
Fourth Grade – Richard Pawelkiewicz  
Fifth Grade – Emily Barcikawski

### WEST GATES:

First Grade – Yana Vilchynskaya  
Second Grade – Sophia Anzalone  
Third Grade – Liam Lynch  
Fourth Grade – Lea Jilling  
Fifth Grade – Anthony Sabino

### WILLIAM RALL:

First Grade – Lauren Barbaro  
Second Grade – Matthew Newman  
Third Grade – Julia Diorio  
Fourth Grade – Angelina Costanzo  
Fifth Grade – Briana Crowley



# Elementary Learning

## Bower Students Mix It Up



Fourth graders make quilt patches for National Mix It Up Day.

E.W. Bower Elementary students participated in a National “Mix it Up” day. The goal of the experience was for students to make new friends and to become comfortable starting conversations with children they might not know. The theme of respecting differences was integral to the day.

Students read and familiarized themselves with the book *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr. The book addresses issues such as self-esteem and confidence. Students created their own page, with the theme of “It’s Okay to...” Some examples were how it’s okay to have freckles, enjoy different music, be sensitive, and be shy. In addition, some students made patches for quilts that are displayed at the school.

The Mix It Up program took place in the cafeteria during lunch. The students were required to “mix it up” and sit with students not in their class. Social worker Melissa Levy helped encourage conversations and led students in interactive activities.

“The lesson focused on making friends and finding things in common with others,” explained Mrs. Levy.

## Students Enjoy PICKING PUMPKINS at West Gates

West Gates Avenue Elementary School held its annual pumpkin patch on the front lawn of the school in October.

Each student had the opportunity to pick and purchase their special autumn pumpkin when the classes came outside. Parent volunteers helped the children make their selections and put them into plastic bags. Group photos were taken in front of the school with a large cornstalk. Each class had the opportunity to guess the number of pieces of candy corn in the jar and every student received an orange lollipop.

Thank you to the PTA, which helped make the annual autumn event a success.



West Gates Avenue kindergarteners picked pumpkins on the front lawn of the school.



Suzanne Prenderville's fifth graders enjoyed the West Gates pumpkin patch.

## Albany Celebrates American Education Week

Albany Avenue Elementary School students welcomed parents into their classrooms to celebrate American Education Week. The program emphasized the importance of the shared commitment between parents and teachers.

Fifth-grade teachers conducted interesting lessons to involve parents and students together. Victoria Faas's class participated in a lesson on the food groups. Melissa Arm's class enjoyed a social studies question-and-answer game to show parents how much they had learned from preparing for the recent statewide exam. Robin Cahill's class completed a persuasive essay assignment on “Why NOT to eat turkey on Thanksgiving.”

Albany Avenue was one of many schools throughout the district that opened its doors to parents during American Education Week. “It gives parents a firsthand opportunity to see the quality education that is being provided to our youngsters,” said Principal Frank W. Grotschel.



Students and parents enjoy American Education Week together.

## STUDENTS

# “Jump Rope”

## for American Heart Association



Daniel Street students gather before Jump Rope for Heart.



Daniel Street girls at Jump Rope for Heart.

Daniel Street Elementary School students joined together for Jump Rope for Heart, an annual event to benefit the American Heart Association. Approximately 140 students took to the gymnasium floor to jump rope at the event, and additional students contributed money to the cause.

This year, Daniel Street raised almost \$8,000 for the American Heart Association. Over the past nine years, the school community has raised more than \$100,000 through the Jump Rope for Heart event. All money collected each year is used to help fund research projects on Long Island and to help raise awareness about heart disease.

Physical education teachers Andrew Kramer and Courtney Dietz coordinated the event with help from parents and volunteers. “We couldn’t run this event and raise the money without the help from everyone,” said Mr. Kramer. Retired Physical Education teacher Sue Stout was also instrumental in helping Daniel Street students raise money throughout the years.

# g Across the District

## RALL STUDENTS SALUTE VETERANS

Students at William Rall Elementary School held a special schoolwide program to honor local veterans for their service and dedication to the United States of America.

Approximately 18 veterans attended the celebration, many of who reside in Dominican Village, an independent and assisted-living retirement community in Amityville.

Throughout the celebration, students sang patriotic songs, played interactive games and riddles, spoke with the

veterans, and presented cards and plants to the special guests. The veterans also received goody bags containing signs, magnets and picture frames.

Rall students paraded in red, white, and blue clothing and sang songs such as "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "America, The Beautiful." Each student thanked the veterans in their own way for serving our country and for protecting the freedoms of today's world.



William Rall fifth-grade students from Janet Scalá's class honor veterans.



First graders from William Rall Elementary entertain veterans with patriotic songs.



Harding Avenue students are led by Karen Newman at the Rainbow Center.



Harding Avenue students sang songs and poems to the senior citizens at the Rainbow Center.

## HARDING STUDENTS Entertain Seniors at the Rainbow Center

Fifty-three Harding Avenue first and second-grade students in Karen Newman's, Stacey Antonelli's and Karen West's classes paid a special visit to the senior citizens at the Rainbow Center to help them celebrate Halloween.

The students paraded around in their beautiful costumes and sang Halloween songs and poems. They presented seniors pumpkins during the 19th annual Harding Halloween show.

Seniors, students, teachers, parents, and administrators all joined together to sing "Proud to be an American" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." The festivities concluded with dancing the Chicken Dance and Electric Slide.

"This year's Halloween show was extremely successful," exclaimed Ms. Newman, all dressed up in her princess costume. "All generations singing and dancing together is amazing."

## ALLEGHANY STUDENTS

### Participate in *Newsday's* Kidsday

Four Alleghany Avenue Elementary School students participated in *Newsday's* Kidsday by interviewing actress Tiffany Thornton from Disney's "Sonny with a Chance" program. They travelled by train into New York City and spoke with the actress at Planet Hollywood.

Thomas Stylianios's fourth-grade students were selected by *Newsday* to participate in the Kidsday section. Each student in the class is doing a different project. The Thornton interview will appear in *Newsday's* Kidsday section in March.



Alleghany students with actress Tiffany Thornton at Planet Hollywood in New York City. (L-R) Parker Gill, Daniel McKenna, actress Tiffany Thornton, Sabrina Abbamonte, and Marykate Bayley.

## TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

The Lindenhurst High School Tri-M Music Honor Society recently inducted eleven new members at the annual ceremony and recital in the auditorium. The Tri-M – which stands for Modern Music Masters – is an organization which admits music students from grades 9-12 that exhibit high musical and academic achievement. Candidates are selected based on scholarship, character, leadership, cooperation and service.

Tri-M music student inductees were Naomi Asch, Brittany Accardi, Brandon Ahl, Doriann Lewis, Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski, Rocio Mancía, Jessica Wilner, Robert Schwartz, Abigail Kalish, Cassandra Price, and Lauren Lindemann.

Each new member was presented with a pin and letter of congratulations at the induction ceremony. Following the presentation, current Tri-M members performed musical selections. A reception for members and their families concluded the celebration.

“We are very fortunate to have such talented and dedicated students at LHS,” explained Elyse Gellert, Director of the Lindenhurst High School Orchestra. “The wonderful part of Tri-M is that students from each performing group (band, chorus and orchestra) can unite and share their love for music.”



*The Lindenhurst High School Tri-M Music Honor Society members.*

## Lindenhurst High School Participates in “Compassion Without Borders” Leadership Summit 500 Suffolk County Students Unite for a Common Cause

Lindenhurst High School students participated in the first “Compassion Without Borders” leadership summit, sponsored by the Suffolk County High School Principals’ Association (SCHSPA). During the summit, student representatives from every high school in Suffolk County gathered to take part in the unique conference, geared at breaking down geographic borders between the schools and uniting the students to work toward one common cause.

For this inaugural summit, the high school leaders gathered to discuss the group’s first mission: to raise money for Dylan Thompson, a sophomore at Harborfields High School who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Dylan’s condition confines him to a wheelchair and presents him with a myriad of health-related issues.

At the Compassion Without Borders summit, each high school pledged to raise \$1,000 for Dylan’s cause over the course of the school year. Through this collaborative effort, more than \$50,000 will be raised to help upgrade Dylan’s home and make it wheelchair accessible.

Each club at Lindenhurst High School is participating to help meet the school’s goal of reaching the \$1,000 donation. Lindenhurst High School Assistant Principal Al Cirone stated, “I am touched to see that many Lindenhurst students are willing to give up their time and work together towards this cause.”



*Student leaders from Lindenhurst High School at the first Compassion Without Borders summit.*

## Culinary Students Experience **GREEN** Living Expo



*Culinary students cook at the Long Island Green Living Expo.*

Seven Lindenhurst High School culinary arts students participated in the Long Island Green Living Expo at the Suffolk County Community College Brentwood campus. The event was designed to promote awareness of “green” living practices including the consumption of natural and organic foods, as opposed to packaged and processed foods.

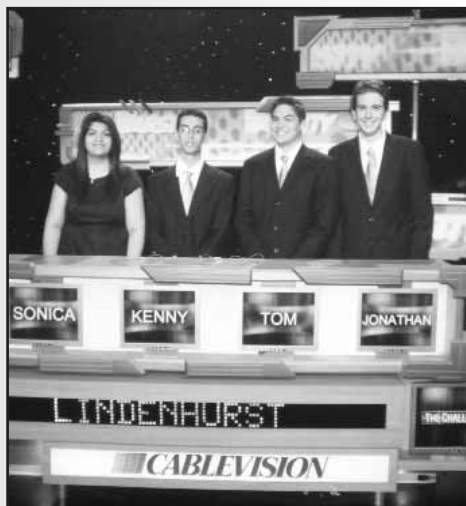
The culinary students created and executed their own pasta demonstration, using organic pasta and vegetables, and natural parmesan cheese. The show also included a panel discussion with previous contestants from the Bravo Channel show “Top Chef.” The Lindenhurst students were able to meet and talk with the “Top Chef” alumni, who praised the high school’s Culinary Arts program. The chefs observed and tasted the pasta recipe as part of the audience.

The students that participated were Jessica Cossin, Dan Weingaertner, Will Kiernan, Jamie-Lynne Oberlin, Vicki Seda, Frank Carrieri and Nick Decuiitis. “I am very proud of my students and the real-world connection that was made between what we do in class and what happens outside of school,” explained Culinary Arts teacher Caroline Naluai.

## Lindenhurst High School Competes in “The Challenge”

Lindenhurst High School students competed in the Cablevision Systems “The Challenge,” an award-winning high school quiz show. Teams are typically made up of students who are at the top of the class and they compete based on their knowledge of history, arts, literature, math and science.

More than 150 schools in the tri-state area compete each season. Schools vie each week to continue on in the competition, which results in the best teams from each region facing off against each other to crown regional champions and the ultimate winner, the Challenge Champion.



*Lindenhurst High School students compete in “The Challenge.”*

## Marching Band Concludes Successful Season

The Lindenhurst High School Marching Band placed second at the United States Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) New York State Championships held in Parlin, NJ. They won best color guard,

percussion and overall effect. They also participated in the USSBA Northern States Championships in November in Allentown, PA, during which Lindenhurst competed against schools from throughout New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Delaware. In addition, the Lindenhurst Marching Band was featured in the New York City Columbus Day Parade, and was awarded third place out of approximately 27 bands.

“This group is extremely talented,” stated band director Kevin Pike. “They completed one of their most successful seasons in the past 15 years.”



*The Marching Band enjoyed a successful season.*

# BREAKFAST FOR CHAMPIONS CONTINUES TRADITION

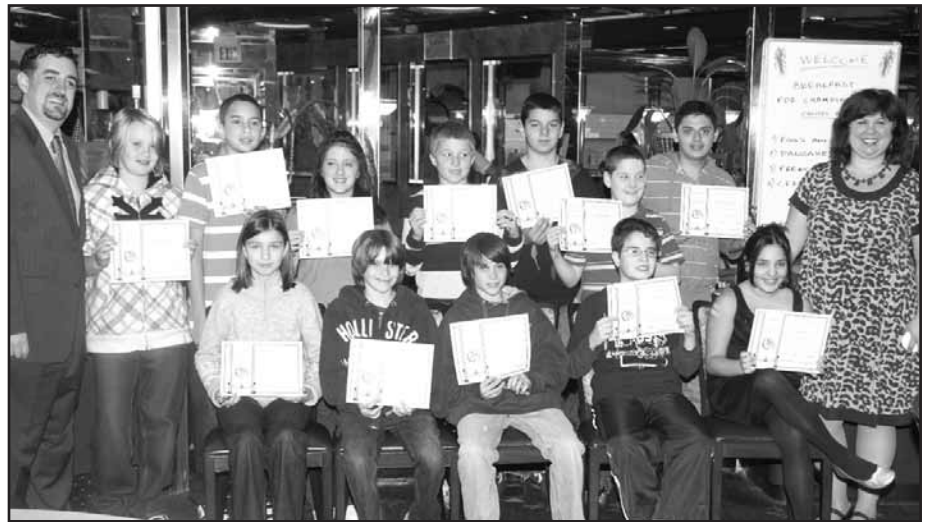
Congratulations to the November Champions for all their accomplishments at Lindenhurst Middle School. Twelve students, nominated by teachers, were rewarded with a breakfast at the Lindencrest Diner. Coordinated by Debbie Gloor, this is the 12th year the middle school Student Council has sponsored this event.

"I am so proud of each and every one of you," declared Principal Frank Naccarato.

## *Congratulations to the November Champions:*

GABRIELLE BARONE  
CASEY FAZIO  
SOFIA GERETA  
NICHOLAS GIAMBRONE  
JOSEPH INGRASSIA  
JAMES KATERIDGE

SEAN KOUZNETSOV  
TYLER NYGREN  
SCOTT SCHWAGER  
SEBASTIAN STOLBA  
JADE TATULIS  
ARIEL TAVERAS



*November's Breakfast for Champions winners.*

## *New Program Gives Students **EXTRA HELP***

The Lindenhurst Middle School is offering a new after-school program, for select students, called AccelerateU. It is designed to provide homework support and extra help. Students will receive assistance from the High School Honor Society, under the supervision of Peter Costa. For additional information, contact Bruce Hoffman at 867-3500.

## STUDENTS LOVE GINGERBREAD UNIVERSITY

Lindenhurst Middle School students enjoyed the special holiday workshop featuring Gingerbread University, offered by the Family and Consumer Science department and Arts in Education. More than 100 students each decorated a house and enjoyed learning about the gingerbread industry.

Professor Frederick Terry Sr. gave students background information on gingerbread houses, the spice, and instructions on how to make a great gingerbread house.

The workshop included a special visit from Santa, who brought holiday decorations, and gave students the opportunity to have their picture taken with him. Students enjoyed raffle prizes and festive holiday music throughout the afternoon.

A special thank-you to all the Family and Consumer Science teachers, Rosanna Giugliano, Heather Hearn, Stefana Lipari, Christin Mansfield, Kristin Muscarello, and Angela Cori, for coordinating the workshop.



*Lindenhurst Middle School students enjoyed the Gingerbread University holiday workshop.*

# BASEBALL STAR JON MCGIBBON *Signs to Attend Clemson*

Lindenhurst High School baseball star Jon McGibbon signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Clemson University on a baseball scholarship. Jon has been the starting first baseman for the Bulldogs since his freshman year and holds the school record for playoff hits with 18.

Jon is also an accomplished football player. He is a two-time All-County honoree, and most recently led the team into the Suffolk County semifinals.

"Coach Rogers and I are thrilled for Jon and his family. Clemson is a baseball powerhouse, and they don't recruit many players from the Northeast. Jon's summer baseball organization, the Long Island Titans, did a tremendous job in showcasing his talents to colleges and major league scouts. He has already been contacted by six major league teams," said head coach Michael Canobbio.

Jon enjoyed the atmosphere and organization that Clemson offered over other schools that recruited him. "The players there really want to succeed," observed Jon.

"Baseball has been a huge passion of mine since I was four," he added. "My mother was my first tee-ball coach." Jon is a big Yankees fan and excited they won the World Series. He would love to play in the College World Series with the Clemson Tigers.



(L-R) Back row: Head baseball coach Mike Canobbio, Director of Athletics Rich Roche, assistant baseball coach Rich Rogers, Lindenhurst High School Principal Daniel E. Giordano. Front row: Gerard McGibbon, Jon McGibbon, Diana McGibbon.



Bulldogs quarterback Steven Skon passes the ball in the Suffolk County semifinals game against William Floyd.

## BULLDOG FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS

The Lindenhurst High School Bulldogs football season (5-5) ended with a loss against the William Floyd Colonials with a score of 42-19 in the Suffolk County semifinals. Last season the Bulldogs beat the Colonials, ending Floyd's 42-game winning streak, and keeping them from the Suffolk County Championship game.

The Bulldogs defeated Connetquot 27-14 in the Division I quarterfinals to get to the semifinals. "That game was our best defensive performance of the year," exclaimed Coach Nick Lombardo.

Jon McGibbon (see separate article on Jon signing to attend Clemson) ran a 91-yard kickoff return on the game's first play and caught touchdown passes of 60 and 67 yards from junior quarterback Steven Skon. Otherwise, Floyd's defense was strong, forcing two interceptions and one fumble in the fourth quarter.

## GIRLS SOCCER



Congratulations to this year's winners at the Suffolk County awards dinner. (L-R) Girls Varsity Soccer coach Sara McGuire, seniors Rachel Blum and Kimberly De Angelo, junior Dana Colton, freshman Ariana Irizarry, and assistant coach Lisa Baldwin.

## Congratulations:

### TEAM SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD WINNERS:

awarded by the NYSPHSAA  
(New York State Public High School  
Athletic Association)

### BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY Coach George Smawley

### GIRLS TENNIS Coach Debi Bonanduci

### GIRLS SOCCER Coach Sara McGuire

### TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS:

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Coach Kellie Block

### GOLF Coach Lou Yampiro

Congratulations to STEVEN SKON for winning the Boomer Esiason Award as Most Outstanding Quarterback in Suffolk County.

## Boys Swimming Seeks Success

The Lindenhurst Varsity Boys Swimming team is looking forward to a successful season. There are two talented and highly regarded swimmers on this year's squad that will lead the team, senior Karol Konarski and freshman Kevin Konarski (they are cousins).

Both swam exceptionally well at last year's Suffolk County Championships and will represent Lindenhurst at the state meet in February. Karol is likely to set a new school record in the 100-yard breaststroke. He is expected to be a county champion, and a top finisher at the state meet. Karol is being recruited by Dartmouth University.

Kevin is a highly regarded freshman, who competed on the varsity team last year as an eighth grader. He finished in the top five at counties last year and is also expected to be in the running for a county championship. Kevin will compete in the 100, 200 and 500-yard freestyle events.

"Both Karol and Kevin are all-around great people and we are privileged to have them lead our team to success," declared swimming coach Brian Washington.

