



LINDY SPOTLIGHT

LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lindenhurst Union Free School District

JANUARY 2010

BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

Community Workshops Begin

Governor David Paterson is proposing a cut of nearly \$3.5 million in school aid to the Lindenhurst School District, for the 2010-2011 school year, which represents about a 7% reduction from what we received last year. This paints a cloudy financial picture for our district, as well as many others throughout our region.

Lindenhurst school officials continue to explore ways to further reduce spending and maintain good fiscal health. The administration has issued a temporary freeze on all nonemergency purchases, and is seeking new efficiencies in our operations to reduce current costs. The district does not want to lose educational programs or increase class sizes, but cannot rule out such measures in the future. There is no doubt that planning for the 2010-2011 school year will be a difficult challenge.

The Board of Education and school administration will be conducting

workshops to provide open communication and further insight on the proposed 2010-2011 budget. (See listings below.)

The community is encouraged to attend these meetings, which will be held at 7 PM at the McKenna Administration Building, 350 Daniel Street.

BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES:

Wednesday, February 10 - Community Budget Input Night

Thursday, February 25

Thursday, March 4

Wednesday, March 10

Thursday, March 18

Tuesday, March 23

Wednesday, April 7 - Budget Adoption at BOE Business Meeting
All workshops are at the McKenna Administration Building at 7 PM

*You are cordially invited to
The 4th Annual
Legislators Breakfast*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

REGISTRATION BEGINS 8:30 AM

**LINDENHURST HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM**

Sponsored by the Lindenhurst PTA Council

UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

8 p.m.

McKenna Administration Building

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY BUDGET INPUT NIGHT

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

7 p.m.

McKenna Administration Building

COMMUNITY FORUM

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

8 p.m.

Albany Avenue Elementary School

LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS
350 Daniel Street
Lindenhurst, New York 11757

Nonprofit Organization
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Save the date...PTA Council's Founders Day
Tuesday, February 23, 2010 - 7 p.m.
at Lindenhurst Middle School

Buildings and Grounds Crew Adopts a Family



Harding Avenue Elementary School's Buildings and Grounds members adopted a local Lindenhurst family for the holidays. Shown here are (L-R) Vinnie Pierce, Jimmy Maloney, Anthony Clements, Steve Nocella, and Adopt a Family Committee Chairperson Tom Frey. (Missing from photo is Steve Stiegler.)

Members of the Buildings and Grounds crew at Harding Avenue Elementary School adopted a local Lindenhurst family to spread extra cheer for the holiday season. The unit collected money, toys and clothing for the family. "It's a great feeling to do something good for others who are having a hard time," observed Adopt a Family Committee Chairperson Tom Frey.

Toys Collected for Little Flower Orphanage

Lindenhurst High School's Business Department collected toys for children of all ages to donate to the Little Flower Children's Services of New York for the holiday season. Little Flower is one of the largest child-caring agencies in New York, serving more than 2,000 children and families through foster care and adoption services.



Lindenhurst High School students, and business teachers Joanne Williams and Jessica Rogovitz, with the donated toys for Little Flower.

"We are grateful to the students at Lindenhurst High School for remembering other children and for making the Little Flower Children's holiday so special," said Frank DeVenuto, business department teacher. Thank you to all students and teachers who participated.

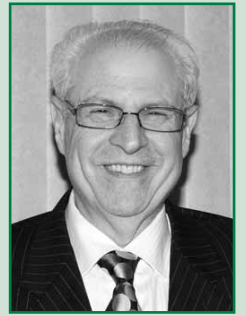
LHS Math Display Dazzles



Lindenhurst High School teachers Maureen Garafalo and Carol Frederico are shown here with their math display window.

Lindenhurst High School teachers Maureen Garafalo and Carol Frederico developed a holiday display board to help boost self-esteem on math-related activities. The activities depicted included books, movies, Sudoku and a Rubik's cube. The display also presented ideas for math-related stocking-stuffers such as calculators, compasses, puzzle books and backgammon boards.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:



In December 2009, Governor David Paterson authorized a delay of 10% of one month's school aid and 19% of the district's STAR payment. For Lindenhurst, this translated to a delay of approximately \$350,000 and \$2.4 million respectively. Thus, a total of \$2.75 million in NYS state aid payments had been delayed. The district recently received these monies. If the governor can ignore state laws to temporarily withhold aid, what will stop him from withholding aid permanently? The governor has threatened a second round of delayed payments to schools in March and has proposed significant cuts to education in his budget for 2010-2011.

This puts Lindenhurst in an untenable position. We cannot tell students, "Potentially, we will allow your teachers to teach your classes, we will continue to provide the academic intervention services you receive and we will allow you to participate in athletics or other extracurricular activities." We cannot tell our employees, "Potentially we will pay your salaries." We cannot tell our vendors, "Potentially we will pay the bill."

It seems that gone are the days of advocating for state aid increases. We find ourselves hoping that state aid will at least remain flat. We are constantly bombarded with news of budget deficits and the expectation of probable cuts in state aid for 2010-2011. In addition, the federal stimulus money is only committed by the federal government through 2010-2011. This money is only a temporary "fix." Clearly, the district will reach a point where we can no longer dodge the bullet. Indeed, New York State's financial future looks grim, and this does not bode well for Lindenhurst Public Schools.

As we plan for next year's school budget, we are looking for ways to further reduce spending and to remain financially prudent. We don't wish to lose educational programs, which in many cases have taken years to develop and implement and have resulted in improved results for our students. Unfortunately, programmatic cuts and larger class sizes may be inevitable.

In the words of a recent article in a NYS School Boards publication, we must be "vigilant, visible, and vocal, if public education is to retain its rightful place atop NYS's priorities." We cannot be complacent. We must contact our legislators and let them know that education must remain a top priority. Help support and advocate for our schools!

Sincerely,
Richard Nathan

Richard Nathan
Superintendent of Schools

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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.

MUSIC AWARDS

The following students have been selected for SCMEA (Suffolk County Music Educators Association). The organization advocates music education, and sponsors and organizes numerous festivals throughout the year. SCMEA serves as an advisory board and awards music scholarships.

ELEMENTARY:

Albany Avenue	Camryn DelucieBand
Alleghany Avenue	Emily PriererBand Diane JagielskiOrchestra
Daniel Street	Jonathan MeyerBand Maria PrastosOrchestra
E.W. Bower	Ashley ChiecaChorus Rebecca HillyChorus Evan McCrannOrchestra
Harding Avenue	Kathryn ByronChorus Shannan LydonChorus Kelsie LopezOrchestra
West Gates	Jonathan ThangaveluOrchestra
William Rall	Hara McCandlessBand Kayla MontanizChorus Joseph LombardiOrchestra

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Michael BrinzerBand	Kassidy RobinsonChorus
Melissa CastiglioneBand	Alexandra SenalChorus
Samantha CastiglioneBand	Julianna SherlockChorus
Anna DomagalaBand	Michelle HuangOrchestra
Angeline AndresChorus	Jessica WongOrchestra
Gabrielle BaroneChorus	
Lucian CoppolaChorus	
Marina D'AngeloChorus	
Sarah FreisemChorus	
Henry HorstmannChorus	
Jared HubermanChorus	
Sydney KalishChorus	

HIGH SCHOOL:

Amanda ArmbrusterBand
Naomi AsheBand
Hailey BerkowitzChorus
Joshua CalderonChorus
Jonathan PersicoChorus
Cassandra PriceChorus
Allison PernaOrchestra

An Evening of Family Science at Lindenhurst High School

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

5:00 p.m. Registration

5:30 p.m. Program Begins

Presented by the Lindenhurst High School Science Club

A FUN EVENING OF
HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS,
MAKE YOUR OWN
"GOO"
AND MAD SCIENCE.



Open to all students and parents from Kindergarten to 6th grade.

SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATIONS

In order to provide parents/guardians and residents with information concerning convicted sex offenders who are living or working in this district, our school district is now benefiting from a no-cost sex offender email alert notification program. Parents for Megan's Law (PFML) will email district residents who have registered information on any new sex offender's presence and direct community members to their website where they can access a full copy of the notification. If you have not already registered to receive current or future sex offender notifications, please contact the Parents for Megan's Law Helpline at (631) 689-2672 or go to their website at www.parentsformeganslaw.org and click on the "Sex Offender Email Alert Registration Program" link on the home page.



Winter Concerts

Shown here are various photos from our elementary school's Winter Concerts. Thank you to all band, chorus and orchestra members and teachers, who put in countless hours preparing for these performances.



Elementary Learning

HELPING THOSE IN NEED AT ALBANY AVENUE

Students, staff, administrators and parents came together to provide Albany Avenue families with food, clothing, toys, and gift certificates through the school's annual Holiday Happenings.

The program, in its 18th year, raised money for needy families within the Albany Avenue community. One of the highlights of the program is a Chinese auction, which offered more than 100 different donated items such as toys, dolls, games and gift cards. Many students were recipients of the raffled items.



Albany Avenue students with winning toys from the Chinese auction.



Alleghany Avenue students with the tins of homemade cookies for two army units in Iraq.

ALLEGHANY AVENUE SUPPORTS TROOPS

Alleghany Avenue Elementary School students participated in the "Support Our Troops" project. Students sent tins of homemade cookies, and stockings filled with personal care items and candy to two army units stationed in Iraq.

"What a great feeling to help those who serve our country," stated Principal Laura Newman.

'Superpower' Reading at West Gates



West Gates fifth graders enjoyed the PARP kickoff with author/illustrator Angelo DeCesare.

West Gates Avenue Elementary School recently held its annual Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program. This year's theme was "Reading is a Superpower."

The kickoff began with author and illustrator Angelo DeCesare showing students how to draw superheroes and develop a storyline. Students were able to draw characters using basic shapes. The author/illustrator read his book, *Flip's Fantastic Journal*, to some of the younger grades.

The theme continued at Superhero comedy night at which students enjoyed improvisation on stage with comedians. Other events included a Family Read-a-Thon, Bingo, a bookmark contest, Community Reader Day and Wear a Superhero Shirt day.

During PARP, students were asked to read at least 15 minutes a night for three weeks. Many thanks to PARP chairperson Kathy Rinaldi and her committee for making this year's events so successful.

DANIEL STUDENTS LEARN GERMAN CULTURE

Lindenhurst High School students in Richard Weeks's class recently visited Daniel Street Elementary School to educate fifth-grade students about German culture.

A brief lesson on numbers, days of the week, and months was given by the high schoolers. Students created cards using various German words and learned how to sing "Silent Night" in the language.

The high school tutors were Brandon Ahl, Marisa Crofut, Chris Cunningham, Artan Fejza, Dardan Fejza, Kevin Irving, Jackie Marr, Chris Morhardt, and Chris Ryder.



Daniel Street fifth graders learned about German culture from Richard Weeks's high school students.

g Across the District

Dino Diva Delivers at Bower

First-grade students in Melissa King's and Doreen Earl's classes at E.W. Bower Elementary School recently completed a dinosaur unit, during which each student made a replica of a dinosaur artifact using plaster of Paris.

Long Island Science Center educator Susan Beltrani, also known as the "Dino Diva," came into the classrooms to give an overview of paleontology, the study of prehistoric life. Students compared dinosaur eggs, teeth, and footprints.

Other lessons included reading fiction and nonfiction books, writing letters to parents to persuade them to keep a dinosaur as a pet, as well as sharpening vocabulary and map skills.



Above: The "Dino Diva" shows first graders a dinosaur artifact.

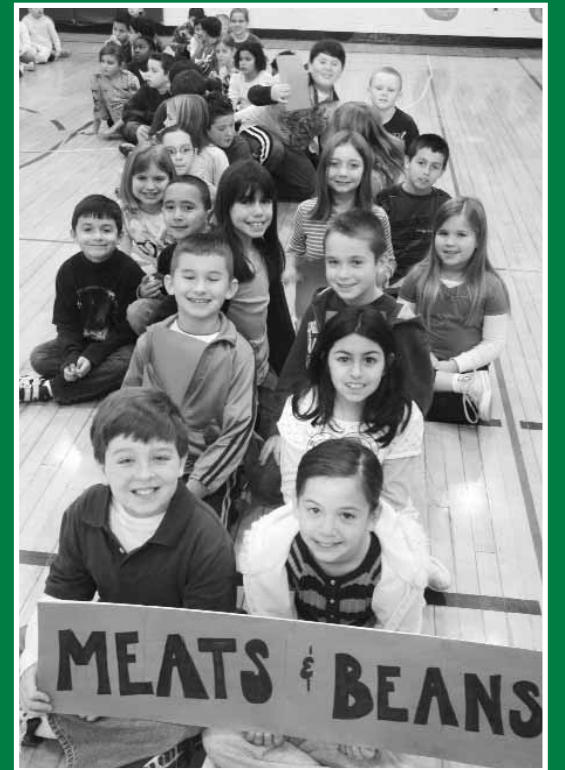


Left: First-grade teacher Melissa King helps students make a dinosaur replica.



Harding Avenue Elementary School's human food pyramid.

Harding Students Form A Human Food Pyramid



Harding Avenue Elementary students learned about nutrition as part of a special unit in Physical Education. In a fun attempt to reinforce the topic, the school conducted a Food Group Challenge, which consisted of the formation of a human pyramid.

Physical Education teacher Richard Price led the students in forming the pyramid. Each grade level was assigned a different color, with each color representing a food group or type. Students were asked to wear an article of clothing representative of the color of their food group. They were:

Kindergarten - Blue (milk/dairy)
First Grade - Yellow (oils)
Second Grade - Green (vegetables)

Third Grade - Red (fruit)
Fourth Grade - Purple (meats and beans)
Fifth Grade - Orange (grains)

Mr. Price also quizzed students on their food group.

Rall's Innovative Domino Effect

Diane Dorr's third-grade students at William Rall Elementary School participated in an innovative math

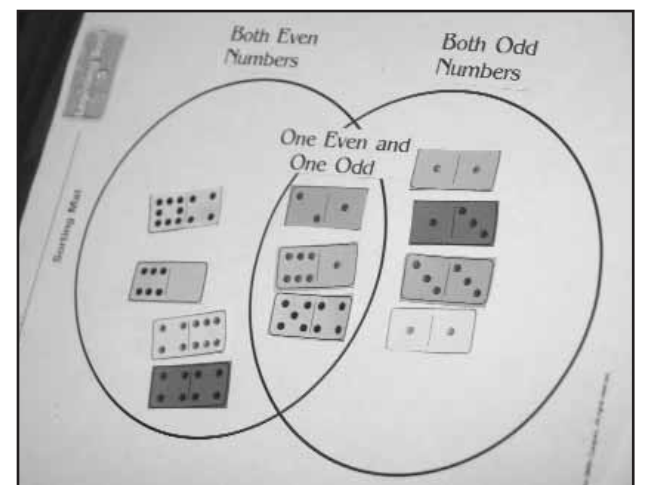


Third-grade students enjoyed hands-on learning using paper dominoes and Venn diagrams.

lesson using paper dominoes and Venn diagrams.

Led by Math Specialist Michelle Schor, students enjoyed reviewing the concept of even and odd numbers, using paper dominoes. Students counted the dots on each half of the domino and determined where in the Venn diagram to place the paper. Students then placed the domino on the even, odd or 'one of each' section.

"They had to remember not to



place the sum of the domino in the correct section," explained Mrs. Schor. "The students grasped the concept quickly and enjoyed the hands-on math lesson."

Alternative Learning Center's End-of-Year Party

Students, staff and administrators at the Lindenhurst High School's Alternative Learning Center enjoyed the annual end-of-year award ceremony and charity auction.

More than 100 people enjoyed a special slide presentation, student academic awards, student "fun" awards, teacher awards presented by students, and a charity auction.

"My favorite part of the program is the end-of-year ceremony and auction. Everyone gets together and it shows how we truly enjoy each other," commented junior Salliann Saulnier.



Alternative Learning Center students at the end-of-year celebration.

Business Class Presents Real-Life Scenarios

In the Career and Financial Management class at Lindenhurst High School, students were assigned the challenge of presenting a real-life business proposal. This was one of the many hands-on, project-based programs that enabled students to perform authentic tasks.

The instruction throughout the year includes career exploration, resume writing, college scholarship searches and interviewing skills. At the particular session pictured, students worked in small groups and had the opportunity to present their findings to the class.



Lindenhurst High School Administrative Assistant for Discipline Michael Stam with eleventh-grade students Salliann Saulnier and Kyle Yocum during the presentations in the Career and Financial Management class.

"Every Fifteen Minutes" Program Challenges Lindy Students with the Consequences of Poor Decisions



Lindenhurst High School students, and teacher John Savastano, (right) participated in "Every Fifteen Minutes" to emphasize the consequences of drinking and driving.

Lindenhurst High School recently participated in an emotionally charged national program called "Every 15 Minutes." The event is designed to dramatically instill into teenagers' minds the potentially dangerous consequences of alcohol abuse and drinking and driving. The program is based on the premise that a person is killed in an alcohol-related crash every 15 minutes.

Throughout the school day, a bell sounded and selected students were removed from class. Moments later, the student returned to class as the "living dead," complete with white face make-up and a black T-shirt. From that point on, the "victims" were unable to communicate or interact with other students.

"The program was a huge success and we conducted assemblies and additional discussions on drinking and driving," explained Assistant Principal Al Cirone.

The powerful program challenged students to really think about drinking, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions when multiple lives are involved.

Student Council Gives Back to Rainbow Seniors

The Lindenhurst High School Student Council entertained 55 senior citizens from the Rainbow Center for their annual holiday luncheon held in the school's library.

The day began with a musical performance by the Lindenhurst High School chorus, with select members of the orchestra providing accompaniment. The seniors enjoyed a delicious lunch, including special holiday cookies prepared by the culinary arts students. Student council members also greeted and chatted with their special guests.

"The students truly enjoyed spending time talking with the seniors," said the Student Council vice president and luncheon co-coordinator, senior Jessica Shepard. "I think the senior citizens appreciated the caring nature of the students."



Student Council members at the Senior Citizen holiday luncheon at the high school.



Thank you to Student Council advisors Megan Scharf and Heidi Campbell and to Ms. Shepard, Mala Sachdev, and Samantha McPadden.

Engineering Students Develop Industrial Robotic Arm

Principles of Engineering (POE) students at Lindenhurst High School participated in a design-and-build task to develop an Industrial Automation Robotic Arm (IARA). Students used higher mathematics along with scientific principles to create unique individual designs. The robotic arm had to be designed to pick up a product and place it on a moving horizontal conveyor, as is done in an industrial plant.

Principles of Engineering is a course that integrates math, science and engineering. The high school has successfully offered this class for more than ten years. As a result of the course, many students have developed an interest in engineering and continued their studies in college, later becoming professional engineers. The technology course is designed for honor, advanced placement and college-bound students.



Lindenhurst High School students in Louis Casio's Principles of Engineering class enjoyed designing robotic arms.

LMS STUDENT WINS AT INTERNATIONAL RECIPE CONTEST

Congratulations to Lindenhurst Middle School sixth grader Charles Hager for being selected as the third-prize winner in the Easy Kids Recipes 2009 Christmas and Holiday Recipe Contest. The contest was sponsored by www.easy-kids-recipes.com. Charles submitted a recipe for Cream Cheese Christmas cookies that has been in his family for years. He won a \$50 gift certificate to Toys R Us. "I am so proud of Charles for winning this international contest," exclaimed Family and Consumer Science teacher Christin Mansfield.

THE WINNING RECIPE: *Cream Cheese Cookies*

INGREDIENTS

1 cup of salted butter
3 ounces of cream cheese
(solid, not whipped)
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon of vanilla
2 cups of sifted flour

STEPS

1. Put the first 3 ingredients on the list at left in a big bowl.
2. Mash or mix ingredients together.
3. Add the last 2 ingredients in the bowl and mix well.
4. Separate mixture into 3 small bowls and put 10 drops of food coloring in each (red, green, and leave one bowl white).
5. Put one color at a time in cookie press and fill.
6. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
7. Put mixture on a baking tray (you may need up to 3 trays).
8. Put trays in oven for 20-30 minutes.
9. When finished let cool for about 10 minutes.



Spanish Club Entertains Seniors

The Lindenhurst Middle School Spanish Cultural Club entertained seniors at the Rainbow Center for pre-holiday festivities. Club members sang *Feliz Navidad* - Merry Christmas in Spanish - and other holiday songs. Students also made holiday cards with the seniors.



Lindenhurst Middle School Spanish Cultural Club members visited the Rainbow Center before the holidays.

A TASTE OF GERMAN CULTURE



Lindenhurst Middle School students enjoyed German cuisine at the Village Lanterne.

Dr. Lou D'Aquila's students from Lindenhurst Middle School visited the Village Lanterne, a local German restaurant, and enjoyed old-world cuisine for lunch. The menu contained a selection of fine German dishes including sauerbraten, pretzel rolls and schnitzel.

Fifty-seven students and parents also sang festive holiday tunes and listened to German music. The students appreciated the cultural ambience, which included waitresses in traditional clothing.



Eighth Grade Football Team Wins

Lindenhurst Middle School's eighth-grade football team, coached by Mike Cheskay and Matt Guillet, won a Section XI Sportsmanship Award. Certificates and recognition are given to those teams that best exemplify sportsmanship.

Players and coaches rated opponents' sportsmanship at every game. Officials also had a rating card at each contest. "The team worked hard this past season and truly deserved this award," stated coaches Cheskay and Guillet.

Breakfast for Champions Winners Show "Lindy Pride"

"Lindy Pride is truly alive at Lindenhurst Middle School," exclaimed Principal Frank Naccarato. Continuing the tradition, the Breakfast for Champions honors students who characterize "Lindy Pride."

Each month, selected students are honored for their excellent achievements with a breakfast at the Lindencrest Diner. The Lindenhurst Middle School student council sponsors the event monthly, at which honorees, parents, teachers and administrators enjoy a full breakfast to recognize those students nominated by their teachers.

Congratulations to the December Breakfast for Champion winners:

Dylan Ashley
Scotty Barany
Don DeProspo
Nathaniel Lugo
Steven Marino
Denny Marmol
Teresa Martinez

Donna Mauro
Joe Reggi
Gianna Rizzi
Stephanie Roberts
Samantha Schweit
Christopher Tocco



Honorees at the Lindenhurst Middle School Breakfast for Champions with Principal Frank Naccarato (left) and teacher and coordinator Deb Gloor (right).

FIELD HOCKEY TEAM HONORED

Members of the Varsity Girls Field Hockey team were honored at the Suffolk County Field Hockey Awards night at Villa Lombardi's in December. The team had an eventful season, falling just short of the playoffs.

"They showed tremendous heart and tenacity as they grew as a team," exclaimed coach Kathy Skon.



At the Suffolk County Field Hockey Awards night were coaches Kathy Skon and Trish McNally with freshman Randi Zorn, and seniors Brianna Lamarca, Maureen Lamarca and Alexandra Donovan.

VARSITY CHEER ENDS FIRST HALF

The first half of the season for the Varsity Cheerleaders came to an end at the annual Football-Cheerleading awards dinner held at Fireman's Pavilion last month. Seniors Alex Bradier, Kathleen Jaklenc, Heather Johnston, Kieley Kling, Kiersten Lynch, Gabrielle Marino and Kristen Vitiello were all rewarded for their hard work and dedication. Captains Antoinette DeVecchis and Cassie Zorn were also honored for their leadership and enthusiasm.

Now that the team has survived the chill of football season, the girls have moved indoors to cheer on the Boys Varsity Basketball team. "I love the spirit of the crowd during our home basketball games," commented junior Kelly McGlaughlin.

The team is preparing for the Long Island Championship Finals competition that takes place at the end of January. The team qualified to compete in the championship when they earned a second-place trophy at the East Islip competition in December.

"Cheerleading across Long Island has become extremely competitive and the girls have been practicing almost every day to build endurance, stamina and to work toward the elite stunting level," noted Varsity Coach Tina Savastano.



Cheerleader Cassie Zorn is recognized at an award dinner with fellow athlete Jon McGibbon, a football standout.

Boys Winter Track Team is Off and Running

The Boys Varsity Winter Track team is off to a great start. In many events, team members achieved rankings in Suffolk County.

Junior Rich Demaio achieved the top ranking in League I and Suffolk County for the 55-meter high hurdles. Senior Craig Podzus and junior Greg Piegari are ranked in the county for the high jump. Shot-putters Chris Langstrand and Alex Langstrand are looking to perform at a high level in the league championships. Brandon Ahl is the squad's top distance athlete, with aspirations to qualify in the meter runs at the league championships.

Other athletes expecting to qualify for the Suffolk County Championship in February are Rich Schimmel, Rob Festa, Paul deQuilfeldt, and Brendan Ruppel. Two outstanding freshmen who play a vital role to the team are Vin DeStasio and AJ Seara.

Boys Varsity Basketball



The Lindenhurst High School Boys Varsity Basketball team is off to a good start in League II. They began the season winning four of their first five games, defeating Northport, Sachem North, Walt Whitman and Connetquot. They

lost by one point to Central Islip.

The team is led by senior Kamil Parzych, junior Rob Balkam and sophomore Lorenzo Warren. Seniors Larry Crehan and Jelaun Johns are also key contributors to the team's success.

"We have high expectations and expect to compete in the playoffs this year," declared assistant coach Bret Kearney.

Lindy Pride Volleyball Night



The winning team included Nicolle Leitke, Courtney Brandenberger, Jack Concannon, Mark Marchino, Sam Saporito, Kaitlyn Meyers, and Joe Gigante.

The Lindenhurst Middle School Physical Education staff organized a night of Lindy Pride Volleyball. There were twelve teams of seventh and eighth graders who enjoyed a night of round-robin volleyball games. Players, parents and friends filled the bleachers, cheering on the various teams. "The monies collected at the door were designated to help defray the cost of the eighth-grade picnic," explained Physical Education teacher Andrea Curran. "The students had a fun night."

JV CHEERLEADERS HELP FAMILY IN NEED

The Lindenhurst High School Junior Varsity Cheerleaders have adopted a family in need. With help from the school's student council, the team identified and adopted four children, providing them with toys and clothing.

Special thanks to cheerleaders Angela Giordanella, Jackie Buddenhagen, Chrissy Hammond, Kim Oak, Alyssa Rinaldo, Molly Flaherty, Rachel Brielimier, Heather Dwyer, Ali Dwyer, Ali Delucie, Faith Santolucci, Amanda Rodriguez, Falon Kirby, Cassie Donovan, Megan Fazio, Pam Albert, Corinne Brandenberger and Amanda Pine.

"During the busiest time of year, when the team practiced daily and attended basketball games and cheerleading competitions, they found time to shop for others in need," said Coach Gina Cirnigliaro. "This is a special group of girls."

FRESHMAN CHEERLEADERS POWER THEIR WAY TO COMPETITION WINS



The Freshman Cheerleading squad after their recent first-place victory.

The Freshman Cheerleading team won first place at their final competition, sponsored by the Long Island Cheerleading Coaches Association, at Walt Whitman High School in mid-January. The team executed a perfect routine and defeated four other teams - Connetquot, Kellenberg, Longwood and St. John the Baptist.

Antoinette Leunes, Emily LoCascio, Malena Sarmiento and Jamie Sciascia also won a "Power 4" competition. This was the team's fourth competition since October. Previously, they were awarded first place in two meets, and third place once.

The remaining members of the Freshman Cheering team include ninth graders Brianna Anchor, Dominique Norwood, Amanda Phalen, Brandi Boll, Brittany Hochman and Katie Lyver, and eighth graders Nicole Alexander, Erica Bahnweg, Kim Cardinal, Karla Desimini, Jackie Guerra, Brittany Keeler, Kaite Kenjensky, Tess Licameli, Allie Pomatico, Gianna Rizzi, Jenna Rollino, Kristen Santoloci, Krissy Stripp, Lauren Tavormino and Nicole Weinsheimer.