



LINDY SPOTLIGHT

LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lindenhurst Union Free School District

OCTOBER 2010

Lindenhurst Unites for Homecoming 2010

Lindy pride was found all over Lindenhurst for this year's Homecoming festivities. The fun began on Friday afternoon, September 24th, with the Lindenhurst Middle School Pep Rally. Team members from all sporting teams showed off their green and white as the bulldog mascot encouraged cheers from the crowd. The festivities continued in the evening as the Lindenhurst High School Pep Rally brought together members of all sports teams to display their spirit. Also represented were the marching band, dance teams, and cheer squads.

The excitement peaked as the traditional announcement of the Homecoming Queen and King, Ciana Desimini and Richard Schimmel, took place. Ciana is on the Board of the Class Council, Student Council, and

National Honor Society. "I love being involved with the community and helping whenever I can," Ciana exclaimed.

Richard is captain of the Varsity Cross-Country team and participates in Track and Field. He is also involved in the Class Council, Student Council, and National Honor Society.

The annual Homecoming Parade was held the following day. The floats started at Fireman's Park, made their way down Wellwood Avenue, and ended at Lindenhurst Middle School. This year's floats were original and colorful.

Following the parade, the Lindenhurst Bulldog Football team defeated Sachem East, with a score of 42-13. The Bulldog victory culminated a great weekend of tradition and spirit.



Homecoming Queen Ciana Desimini and King Richard Schimmel.



LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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School Calendar Update

In an effort to reduce spending and minimize the impact on taxpayers, the Lindenhurst School District mailed the 2010-2011 School Calendar and Directory only to families of students in the district. Information can be found by visiting our website, www.lindenhurstschools.org, under "District Calendar."

Lindenhurst residents may obtain a hard copy of the calendar at the McKenna Administration Building, located at 350 Daniel Street, Lindenhurst. Thank You.

Marine Corps Junior ROTC Program Saved

The Marine Corps Junior Reserves Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) program has been reinstated due to the efforts of the Lindenhurst School District administration, our Board of Education, and the United States Marine Corps.

With the June retirement of Major James P. Sureau, the continuance of the program was in jeopardy.

Retired Albany Avenue Principal Frank W. Grotschel, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major, has been recertified by the Marine Corps and will return to the position he held in 1982, when the MCJROTC program began, to lead the program. He will be assisted by Master Sergeant Magdolna Smith.

The purpose of the MCJROTC is to instill a value of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. The program

does not seek any commitment to the military, and leadership is at the core of the curriculum.

Sergeant Major Grotschel has invited his former Albany Avenue students to visit him and to consider joining the program. "I love working with the kids," he exclaimed.



MCJROTC classroom learning, under the leadership of Sergeant Major Grotschel.



MCJROTC cadets participate in the Youth Physical Fitness Test, under the supervision of Sergeant Major Grotschel and Master Sergeant Smith.

Lindenhurst School District Welcomes Four New Teachers

The Lindenhurst School District officially welcomed four new full-time and part-time special education teachers for the 2010-2011 school year. Prior to the start of the school year, they gathered for a professional development orientation that was organized by the Owl Teacher Center.

The orientation included presentations by various district administrators, a workshop, and sessions on organizational and management skills. The new teachers participated in informational discussions on the district's benefits and special education, and received a lesson on SMART Boards. The new teachers also visited the buildings to meet with their assigned mentor, the building principal, and the department coordinator.



New Lindenhurst special education teachers (L-R) Chris Hughes, Kerri-Ann Legutko, Nicole Fellin and Marissa Urso are pictured with teacher's union representatives John Mansfield and Rose Russo and Owl Teacher Center Coordinator Jennifer Bova.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Welcome Back to the 2010-2011 School Year



Last year was filled with many challenges and opportunities. Our challenges ran the gamut from new transportation guidelines, to the threat of the H1N1 virus, to the loss of state aid. Faced with a reduction of approximately \$3.5 million in state aid, our Board of Education and administration worked hard to create a comprehensive budget for 2010-11 that serves the educational needs of our students, meets federal and state mandates, honors our contractual obligations, and is fiscally responsible to the community.

Some changes were made to our administrative staff for 2010-2011. We recently hired a new Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Service (Louis Aiello), two secondary Special Education chairs (Danielle Grandin at the high school and Paul Walia at the middle school), a new Assistant Business Administrator (Michael Stam), a new Coordinator of Health, Physical Education and Athletics (Anthony Amesti), a new Coordinator of Music and Fine arts (Rose Marvel), a new Administrative Assistant for Discipline at the high school (Lisa Carboy), and a new Principal at Albany Avenue Elementary School (Linda Domanico).

For 2010-11, New York State has eliminated the fifth and eighth-grade Social Studies examinations, the component re-testing for high school English and math Regents exams, the eighth-grade Second Language Proficiency exam, and the German Regents. Also, the two-day English Regents has been reduced to a one-day exam.

In addition, NYSED has changed the cut scores for the grades 3-8 ELA and math assessments. Cut scores are used to distinguish levels of student performance on standardized tests, including whether a student is passing or meeting standards. This change has largely impacted the number of students achieving proficiency in 2009-10 as compared with 2008-09. The revision of the cut scores was based upon a review of research that analyzed how student performance on the grades 3-8 state tests relates to performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam; how student performance on the state's eighth-grade math and English tests relates to later performance on Regents exams; and how performance on Regents exams relates to first-year performance in college. Additional data provided a link between NYS assessments and SAT scores. According to John King, Senior Deputy Commissioner for P-12 Education, these newly defined cut scores do not mean that students now labeled "Basic" who previously scored at the Proficient standard have learned less. Rather, the smaller number of students meeting the Proficient standard reflects that we have set the bar higher with the expectation that students, teachers, and parents will excel further to achieve these new targets. As Superintendent, I support raising standards. I also recognize that the grades 3-8 tests are only one cog in a much larger wheel.

As we begin the new school year, I am reminded of something George Bernard Shaw once said: "What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child." We are working with staff to continue to look for ways to make instruction more relevant to the lives of our students. Recently, a student wrote a letter to her teacher stating, "Because we can't pick and choose our teachers (just as you can't pick and choose us), we especially need you to know what interests us, what we are good at, and how you can develop our interests to make us better students." I believe we need to heed this advice.

Have a great school year!

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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

Dear Neighbor:

On behalf of the Lindenhurst Board of Education, I hope you enjoyed the summer recess. The Board has been busy planning and preparing for another successful school year as we welcome our children back.

I would like to thank my colleagues for their confidence in electing me to serve a third year as Board President. Congratulations to Mrs. Donna Hochman for having been re-elected the Board Vice President. I thank her for her support.

We are very proud of the Class of 2010. Many of our graduates are now attending some of the most prestigious colleges in the country and have earned impressive numbers of educational scholarships.

We would like to thank Superintendent of Schools Mr. Richard Nathan, who, with the support of his administration, had a great year in his new role. We also welcome our new Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services Mr. Lou Aiello, and new Plant Facilities Administrator Mr. John Marek.

I would also like to thank Mr. Robert Brandenberger, who recently resigned from the Board of Education, for his years of service to our community and the Board. We will soon be deciding whether to let the open seat remain vacant until the next election, appoint a trustee, or hold a special election.

The Board and administration recently toured our nine schools and are pleased to report that our buildings are clean and in good order.

After our students in grades 3 through 8 took their State Assessment tests, but before the results were publicized, New York State changed the cut scores. As a result, it appeared as if our scores went down, when in fact if the cut scores had remained the same as last year, the scores would have continued to improve. We will continue to raise our academic standards districtwide, further improving our mastery and proficiency levels on the grades 3 through 8 assessments and our high school Regents exam scores.

The nation's economic downturn has resulted in fewer resources being made available to us in the form of aid

from the State. Coming off of the most difficult budget cycle in decades, we are confident that we are successfully facing this challenge and continue to do more with less.

As a result of having to look at new ways to be cost efficient, and due to declining student enrollment, the district is in the process of evaluating our student housing configuration. A demographic study, along with recommendations, has been completed. We will proceed with a Community Input Night, Board Workshop, and Public Hearing as we determine our best course moving forward.

Our children's best outcome will be achieved as our partnership in learning - "Home and School" - grows stronger. Thanks to the investment of our community, support of the Board, leadership of our administration, dedication of our staff and excellence of our teachers, Lindenhurst is committed to being the Home of Great Schools!

Sincerely yours,

Edward J. Murphy, Jr.
Board of Education President

New Appointments in Lindenhurst



Louis J. Aiello, Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services

Louis J. Aiello was recently appointed the new Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services for the Lindenhurst School District.

Prior to his arrival at Lindenhurst, Mr. Aiello taught special education for 12 years in the Valley Stream Central High School District. He served for 13 years as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services in the Sayville Public Schools and then as Director of Special Education for the Longwood Central School District. He also founded KLA Educational Consulting and worked with the Manorville, Amityville, Sachem, Garden City and Center Moriches School Districts.

Mr. Aiello received his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Fordham University and his Masters of Arts from Kean University. He also received a professional diploma in Educational Administration from CUNY at Queens College. Mr. Aiello has taught at Adelphi, Long Island University and Dowling College.

"I am pleased to be part of the Lindenhurst family and believe that my many years of experience in special education will enhance delivery of services to our students," stated Mr. Aiello.



Anthony V. Amesti, Coordinator of Athletics, Physical Education and Health

Mr. Amesti comes to Lindenhurst from the Deer Park School District, where he served as the District Administrator for Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation for the past five years. Prior to his position in Deer Park, Mr. Amesti worked for the New York City Board of Education at Linden Middle School and Richmond Hill High School, serving as a physical education administrator and teacher.

Mr. Amesti holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the State University of New York at Cortland College and a Masters in Education from Queens College. In addition, he obtained a Certificate of Advanced Study from the College of Saint Rose.

"I have gained valuable experiences that I feel will make me a good fit in the Lindenhurst School District," explained Mr. Amesti.



John Marek, Plant Facilities Administrator

The Lindenhurst Board of Education is proud to announce the appointment of John Marek as the district's new Plant Facilities Administrator. As the head of Buildings and Grounds, he replaces John Drenckhahn who retired after 36 years with the district.

Prior to his new position, Mr. Marek served the Hauppauge School District for approximately 20 years as Plant Facilities Administrator and Maintenance Mechanic. He is a past president of the Suffolk County Superintendents of

Buildings and Grounds Association and is an active member in the New York State Association for Superintendents of School Buildings and Grounds, Inc. He is also a member of the Hauppauge Fire Department. Mr. Marek received a degree in political science from SUNY Farmingdale.

"I am excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Lindenhurst School District," he stated. "I look forward to working with everyone."



Rose M. Marvel, Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts

The Lindenhurst School District recently appointed Rose M. Marvel as the Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts. She has extensive training in vocals, instrumental music and dance.

Mrs. Marvel joins the district from the Port Washington Schools, where she served as the Director of Creative Arts. Prior to her position in Port Washington, Mrs. Marvel served as the Director of Music, Art and Cultural Arts for the Patchogue-Medford School District. She also served as an elementary school voice teacher in the Commack School District for almost 20 years.

Mrs. Marvel is a graduate of Hofstra University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education, a Master of Arts in Secondary Education, and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Education.

"I'm anxious to utilize contemporary approaches to develop music and art programs districtwide in order to enhance this curriculum as a part of the classroom," explained Mrs. Marvel.



Paul S. Walia, Chairperson, Special Education at Lindenhurst Middle School

The Lindenhurst School District has appointed Paul S. Walia Chairperson of Special Education at Lindenhurst Middle School.

Prior to his arrival at Lindenhurst, Mr. Walia served for six years as a school psychologist at South Side High School in Rockville Centre, where he was responsible for the coordination and review of more than 130 special education students.

Currently, he is an active member of the National Association of School Psychologists and serves as an adjunct professor at Alfred University's school counseling program.

Mr. Walia obtained his Bachelor of Science in General Psychology and his Masters of Science in School Psychology from Queens College. He has received Advanced Certificates in School Leadership and Administration from C.W. Post University, as well as New York State Certification in School District Leadership, School Building Leadership, and School Psychology. Mr. Walia is enrolled in the C.W. Post Education Administration doctoral program.

"I can offer the district a unique blend of diverse professional experience and clinical expertise that will allow me to meet the diverse needs of the students," stated Mr. Walia.

In addition to the above appointments, congratulations to the following staff members on their new appointments within the district:

Danielle Grandin, *New High School Secondary Special Education Chairperson*
Michael Stam, *New Assistant Business Administrator*
Lisa Carboy, *New Administrative Assistant for Discipline, Lindenhurst High School*

Linda Domanico, *New Principal at Albany Avenue Elementary School*
Frank Grotchel, *New MCJROTC Coordinator*

Elementary Learning



2010-2011 School Year Kicks Off with Smiles in Lindenhurst

In early September, the Lindenhurst School District welcomed back students and staff at all nine schools for the start of the 2010-2011 school year. 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 (please see page 3). The district will continue to raise the academic standards to ensure Lindenhurst students not only excel on state testing, but are also prepared with the skills needed to succeed in life beyond high school. As always, the district's administration and Board of Education continue to work hard to do more with less and continually look for ways to enrich the curriculum and program provided to students without placing a high burden on the local taxpayers.

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 your support, our students are able to reach their highest potential."



Across The District

Albany Avenue Kindergarteners Are Off and Running

Lindenhurst's Albany Avenue Elementary School held their kindergarten orientation the week before school officially opened. "It lets the new students get familiar with the building before they have to be here officially," stated Albany Avenue's new principal Linda Domanico. "It helps them understand what happens on the first day of school."



Emma, Jennifer and Riley at kindergarten orientation.

After receiving a warm welcome from the principal and meeting the kindergarten teachers, students and parents were given separate building tours and enjoyed juice, iced tea, lemonade and cookies, thanks to the Parent-Teacher Association.

This year, reporter Ken Grimball and a videographer were on hand to tape a feature segment for News12 Long Island, which aired that evening.



Welcome kindergarteners to Albany Avenue Elementary School!

ALLEGHANY ROCK AND SIGN REVEALED



At the unveiling, students, teachers, and administration acknowledged Meg Danaher, shown on the right with Principal Laura Newman and Superintendent Richard Nathan.

The new Alleghany Avenue Elementary School rock and sign were unveiled at a special ceremony on the first day of school. The rock, gifted to the school by the graduating class of 2010, is inscribed with Alleghany's Social Emotional Learning (SEL) motto: "Alleghany, our family away from home, a place where our hearts and minds can grow."

The school would like to thank Mrs. Meg Danaher on behalf of her Lindenhurst-based business, Edward D. Jones Investments, for her generous donation of the new sign.



A newly-inscribed rock and sign were recently unveiled at Alleghany Avenue Elementary School.

Rall Students Enjoy Tepee Program



Rall students and teachers enjoyed a lesson inside a tepee.

William Rall Elementary School's fifth graders were engaged in Bob Vetter's "Journeys into American Indian Territory," sponsored by the Cultural Arts program. Students enjoyed sitting in a tepee, learning about Native American cultures from around the world, touching Indian artifacts, hearing the story and movie of "Brother Bear," and playing an outdoor Indian hunting game.

In each fifth-grade class, students took turns sitting in a tepee, set on Rall's far soccer field and learned about the lives of the Plains Indians, as well as the role of the tepee in housing and ceremonial use. Students also enjoyed the hands-on museum of material culture, including clothing, beadwork, porcupine

quillwork, containers, wampum, dolls, and drums.

A key theme in all of the events was respect. Traditional stories and teachings demonstrate the importance of showing respect, which stems from one's connection to other people. "The students truly enjoyed learning in different ways about the life of Native Americans, past and present," stated fifth-grade teacher Valerie Dietrich.



Fifth graders participated in an outdoor Indian hunting game.

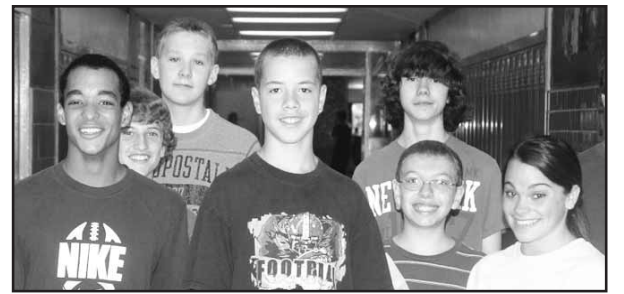


Peer Leaders help ninth graders get adjusted to Lindenhurst High School.

Lindenhurst High School Greet Ninth Graders

Incoming freshmen received warm greetings at Lindenhurst High School's ninth-grade orientation. The graduating class of 2014 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.

"I love the fact that the high school offers so many more choices," exclaimed ninth-grade student Daniel Owens. "I can't wait for my Theater Arts class."



Lindy Sophomore Attends National Young Leaders Conference



Lindenhurst High School sophomore Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski at the National Young Leaders Conference.

Lindenhurst High School sophomore Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski attended the National Young Leaders Conference, a privilege given for her outstanding leadership and communication skills displayed at the high school. She attended the ten-day program in Washington, D.C. with students from throughout the United States.

"I am so thankful to be given the opportunity to attend and enjoy this conference," exclaimed Caroline. In addition to her participation at the conference, she received a nomination to attend the Global Youth Leaders Conference in China and New York City next year.

Lindenhurst High School Students Receive Scholarships

The 52nd annual Larry Troiano Memorial Steak Fry, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, recently raised thousands of scholarship dollars for Lindenhurst High School students. This year, nine high school seniors received scholarship money. Since 1961, \$358,400 has been awarded to 216 recipients.

More than 1,000 people attended the event, held at Fireman's Park. 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, chairperson of the Steak Fry committee. "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, gather with district administrators, Key Club members and Lindenhurst High School scholarship recipients.

Cassandra Price Selected to Perform at NYSSMA

The Lindenhurst School District is proud to announce that junior Cassandra Price has been selected to perform in this year's New York State School Music Association's (NYSSMA) All-State Winter Conference. Cassandra has been a part of the music program since fourth grade and is involved in the high school musicals, Odyssey, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the concert choir. She intends to major in musical theatre in college.

This is a tremendous honor, as these students rank as the top musicians statewide, earning scores of 100 at the NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival last spring. At this conference, students rehearse and perform with the finest musicians across New York State under the direction of top conductors from all over the country. Performances will be held at the Eastman School of Music during the conference on December 2-5, 2010 in Rochester, NY.

"I would like to thank the entire Lindenhurst music staff, the administration, and the community for all of their support given to the music program," stated Rose M. Marvel, Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts. "We wish a 'congratulations' to Cassandra on this wonderful achievement."



(L-R) Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts Rose M. Marvel, junior Cassandra Price, Choral Director Charles Pramnicks, and LHS Principal Daniel Giordano.

Lindenhurst Middle School Welcomes Sixth Graders

Incoming sixth-grade students were introduced to the wonderful world of Lindenhurst Middle School on August 30th and 31st. The program started with Principal Frank D. Naccarato, Jr. (also known as "The King of Lindy Pride") giving advice to students and parents. "No flip-flops are allowed in the middle school...too many accidents," he explained, as he discussed some of the "do's" and "don'ts" of the rules.

Mr. Naccarato went on to describe the events of a typical day at school, as well as the various clubs offered

to students. He also talked about parent and student responsibilities. "I bleed green - and you will be sick of hearing me talk about Lindy Pride," he joked.

Students were given tours, schedules and a bagel breakfast in the cafeteria, courtesy of the Parent-Teacher Association. Students and parents were able to purchase Master Key locks, T-shirts, shorts and nylon backpacks. Eighth-grade members of the National Junior Honor Society assisted during orientation.



Sixth-grade girls at the new student orientation.



Lindenhurst Middle School Special Education Chairperson Paul Walia welcomes new students.

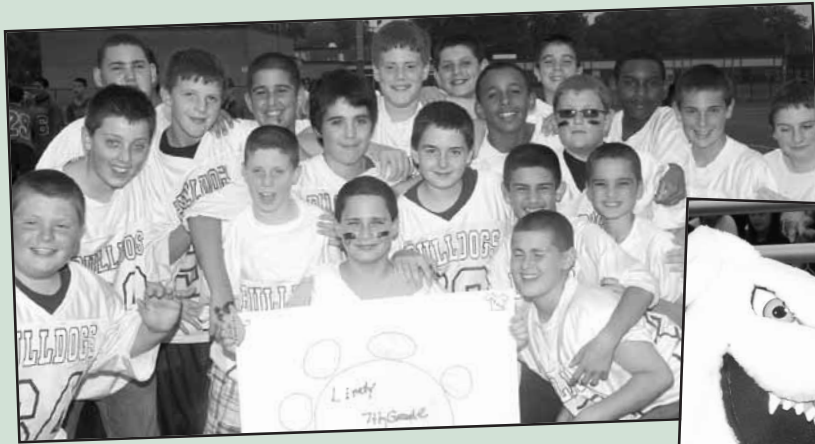


Sixth-grade boys at their orientation to middle school.



National Junior Honor Society students help sell Master Key locks at orientation.

Lindenhurst Middle School Pep Rally



Trash to Treasures



Thank you to Lindenhurst Middle School students for their contributions to **Trash to Treasures**.

With everyone's help, the school raised more than \$200 dollars and donated 15 bundles of children's clothing for PRONTO, a non-profit organization that helps families in need across Suffolk County.

Bulldog Football Opens Season with WIN

The Lindenhurst High School Football team won the season opener against the Longwood Lions with a score of 27-6. In the opening drive, the tone was set when Quarterback Steve Skon threw a beautiful 15-yard pass to Wideout Dave George. In the first drive, Skon spearheaded a nine-play, 71-yard march down the field, concluding with a 6-yard touchdown pass to Colton Haupt.

The Bulldogs made some excellent plays on defense, including big stops and turnovers. They matched the physical and intense play of their opponent. Skon completed 11 of 15 passes for 165 yards and three touchdowns.

Quarterback Steve Skon was included in MSG Varsity's Top 10 Players on Long Island. "He has a big-time arm, which earned him second team All-Long Island."

In the second game of the season, the Lindenhurst Bulldogs were defeated by Sachem North Flaming Arrows in a Suffolk Division I football game. The Sachem North team ran for 276 yards on the ground. "We knew this team was a tough opponent," stated Coach Nick Lombardo.

In the Homecoming game, the Bulldogs defeated Sachem East with a score of 42-13. Quarterback Skon and receiver Kenny Skon combined for two first-quarter touchdowns to give the early lead. The defense shut out the opponent for the first three quarters.



Senior Steve Skon threw for 165 yards against Longwood.

LHS Pep Rally



Athletes walked around the Lindenhurst Middle School track to raise money to support childhood cancer research and education.

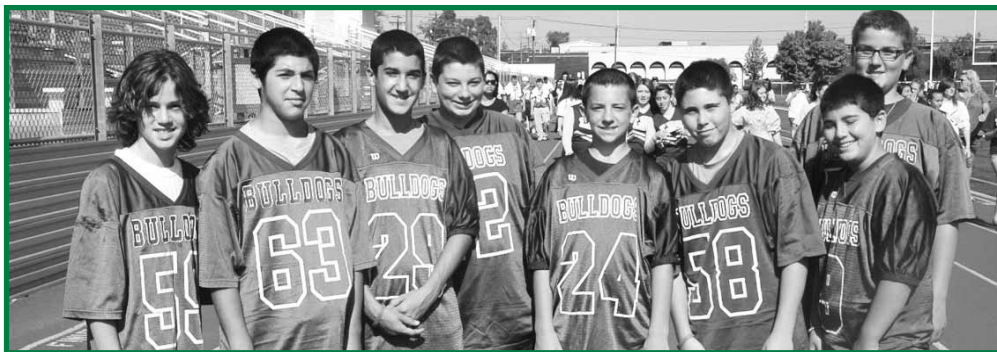
Christina Renna Walkathon

The Christina Renna Foundation held a walkathon on Sunday, September 19th at the Lindenhurst Middle School track. Athletes from Lindenhurst Middle School and Lindenhurst High School came out and walked around the track to raise money in support of the Foundation. A blood drive was also held in conjunction with the walkathon.

Christina was a Lindenhurst High School athlete who passed away from cancer a few years ago. Her father, Philip Renna, was a former president of the Lindenhurst School District's Board of Education.

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, visit www.crf4acure.org.



Congratulations to the Boys Varsity Volleyball team, winners of the 2010 Northport Spikefest Tournament. The team was undefeated on the day, with a record of 6-0. The tournament's Most Valuable Player was senior captain Chris Mehm. The team is coached by Kevin Muscarello and Angelo Cioffaletti.