



# LINDY SPOTLIGHT

## LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lindenhurst Union Free School District

MARCH 2010

### Community Provides Input on Budget

The Board of Education conducted its first Community Budget Input Night recently, at the McKenna Administration Building. The purpose of the meeting was to gather community input during the budget development process. The district is in the process of identifying new efficiencies to help control costs during this difficult process.

Superintendent of Schools Richard Nathan gave an overview of the preliminary budget. Community leaders provided some

useful suggestions which will help to guide the Board of Education and administration in further reducing expenditures. A significant reduction in staff, based on a decline in enrollment is already included in the proposed budget.

The Lindenhurst Board of Education and administration encourages involvement in the budget process and looks forward to working with residents to propose a budget that balances the needs of both the students and taxpayers.



*Joint Civics Association President John Lisi outlines suggestions for further efficiencies at the Community Budget Input Night.*

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUSINESS MEETING AND BUDGET ADOPTION**  
Wednesday, April 7th - 8 p.m.  
McKenna Administration Building

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE**  
Tuesday, May 18th  
Polls Open – 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

*Stay Tuned - Coming Soon:*

**Lindy's Big Read -  
A WHOLE community embraces  
*The Power of Half***

Lindenhurst Public Schools invites all residents of the community to participate in an exciting literary and community service awareness project called *Lindy's Big Read*. For the first time, Lindenhurst Public Schools and Lindenhurst Public Library are joining together to launch a celebration of reading and community service. The goal of *Lindy's Big Read* is to encourage everyone in Lindenhurst to read Kevin and Hannah Salwen's book *The Power of Half*.

*The Power of Half* is a true story about 14-year old Hannah Salwen who, troubled by a growing sense of injustice in the world, convinced her family that they should sell their Atlanta home, downsize their lifestyle, and give half of their home's sale price to charity. This one act set off a chain reaction that sent them on a two-year journey where every decision was made collectively, with the Salwen teens having just as much say [in helping the world] as their parents

*Diane Sawyer, ABC World News*

During the month of April, numerous events celebrating *Lindy's Big Read* will take place in our schools, our town library, and throughout the greater Lindy community. A calendar of these events, including ideas about how individuals and families can make a difference (whether big or small), will be posted on our school district's website: [www.lindenhurstschools.org](http://www.lindenhurstschools.org).

If you have any questions about *Lindy's Big Read*, please contact Linda Flannely, LHS Assistant Principal, at (631) 867-3770.

### Transportation Deadline:

**Application Requests for Private and Parochial School Transportation and Childcare forms are due by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year.**

**Proof of residency is required.**

**For more information, contact Transportation at 867-3050.**



LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
350 Daniel Street  
Lindenhurst, New York 11757

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## PRESCHOOL CENTER OFFERS EVALUATIONS

Lindenhurst Public Schools operates a Preschool Evaluation Center to conduct on-site evaluations for children turning age 2 1/2 through 5 **at no cost to parents**. The Center evaluates the physical, adaptive, cognitive, speech and language, social and emotional abilities of a child. A team approach is used to work in partnership with families to meet their child's needs.

If you suspect delays in your child's development, he or she may be eligible to receive services through the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). These services may include speech, occupational therapy, counseling, special education, physical therapy, an integrated preschool program, or a half- or full-day special education program.

The first years of a child's life are the most important for his or her development. Children need the benefits of early education services to acquire the abilities necessary to succeed. The Lindenhurst School District is committed to the early identification of students who are in need of special services.

For further information, please contact Linda Kaye, CPSE chairperson, at (631) 867-3110.

## LEGISLATORS & RESIDENTS Meet on the Issues



Lindenhurst High School students arrived early for this year's Legislators Breakfast.

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Council sponsored the fourth annual Legislators Breakfast at Lindenhurst High School, with more than 100 people in attendance. Superintendent Richard Nathan introduced the guests of honor, including County Legislator Wayne Horsley, State Senator Owen Johnson, State Senator Robert Sweeney, and Legislative Assistant Anthony Pancella representing State Senator Charles Fuschillo's office.

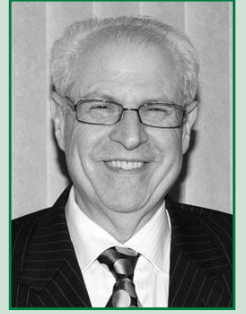
The forum was an ideal opportunity for residents to voice their opinions to local and state lawmakers regarding important topics in the community. Issues that affect the Lindenhurst School District, such as state aid, federal stimulus money, STAR rebates, federal and state mandates, and taxes were discussed. Students, parents, and other community members were given the opportunity to meet the local politicians, as well as ask questions.



(L-R) Village of Lindenhurst Trustee Michael Lavorata, Lindenhurst Board of Trustee Ray Doran, State Senator Robert Sweeney, State Senator Owen Johnson, County Legislator Wayne Horsley, Legislative Assistant Anthony Pancella, Superintendent Richard Nathan, Board of Education Vice President Donna Hochman, and Board of Education President Edward J. Murphy Jr.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

The Lindenhurst School District recently hosted a legislative "meet and greet," at which students, parents and community members had the opportunity to ask our local legislators questions. The sentiment was clear - cutting approximately \$1.4 billion out of New York State school aid in just one year will result in program cuts, staff layoffs and property tax increases. State Senator Owen Johnson and State Assemblyman Robert Sweeney would be in favor of restoring aid, but indicated that unlike other years, they do not know where additional funding would come from. They agree that there will be cuts. What is uncertain is the size of the cuts. Assemblyman Sweeney has told us that the legislators' options are limited, "There are no pots of money left."



In addition to cutting state aid, the governor's proposal has added to the district's financial burden by proposing that certain programs shift costs onto school districts. Included in this is a growth cap on county costs for preschool special education programs, which will shift costs above the cap onto districts. Also looming ahead are steep increases in the district's costs for teacher and other employee retirement systems.

According to the governor's executive budget proposal, Lindenhurst faces a **loss** of \$3.5 million in state aid in 2010-11. Even if state aid were flat and "nothing new" were added to the budget, Lindenhurst would still face an expenditure increase of approximately \$7 million for 2010-11. This is a result of contractual increases and federal and state mandates. The loss in state aid leaves Lindenhurst with two options: One is that the taxpayers must make up lost revenue. This equates to higher tax rates. Two is that we must cut our expenditures. This will certainly mean a loss in programs, services and staff. Class sizes will surely increase. Athletic programs, extracurricular activities, summer school, before school and Saturday remedial programs are all in jeopardy of cuts and/or elimination. These are not idle threats. This year, we have begun what we hope will be part of our regular budget process, "Community Input Budget Night." The public used this opportunity to make suggestions to the Board of Education and administration on ways to save money and become more efficient.

For 2010-11, the district is facing an enrollment decrease of approximately 125 students. The district commissioned a demographic study to look at long-term enrollment trends. The study confirmed long-term declines in enrollment. Rising costs and declining enrollment compelled the district to study building utilization, examine recommendations that were made, and look at various alternative solutions. However, no changes to the school structure will occur for the next school year.

During the meeting with our legislators, they were asked, "Do you really read the letters and e-mails written to you by your constituents?" and "What can we do to let Albany know the devastating impact of state aid cuts on Lindenhurst?" The legislators concurred that they take their constituents very seriously and do pay attention to communication from them. As I indicated in my previous message, we must continue to be "visible, vigilant, and vocal." This has become my new anthem. We must speak with one voice.

Sincerely,  
Richard Nathan

*Richard Nathan*

Superintendent of Schools

# Save the Date

**SEPTA Awards Night**  
**Wednesday, April 14 - 7 p.m.**  
**Lindenhurst Middle School**

**Lindenhurst Union Free School District**  
350 Daniel Street, Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
Tel: (631) 867-3023, Fax: (631) 867-3008  
e-mail: [chauser@lindenhurstschools.org](mailto:chauser@lindenhurstschools.org)

*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

Dear Neighbor,

As we wrap up our budget workshops, the Board of Education is proud of the contributions and input the community has given by attending and contributing to the budget process. As we navigate through this process, the Board of Education is pleased with the progress we have made with the support of the community, the leadership of administration, and the excellence of our teachers.

The \$3.5 million dollar State Aid cut is possibly becoming a reality. The Board is mindful that the Lindenhurst taxpayers cannot absorb this cut in State Aid. In the upcoming weeks, the Board of Education will be faced with many difficult cuts, none of which any of us want to make, but must.

Despite the economic picture, we must move forward in our responsibility to provide for our students. We urge you to continue to contact our State Legislators: Senator Charles J. Fuschillo Jr. at (516) 882-0630, Senator Owen H. Johnson at (631) 669-9200 and Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney at (631) 957-2087 and voice your outrage over these devastating educational cuts.

Thank you,

Donna Hochman  
Vice-President, Board of Education



## Celebrating, Recognizing PTA Support on Founders Day



Regina Cuffaro congratulates John Drenckhahn on receiving the Friends of PTA Award at Founders Day.

Lindenhurst School District recently celebrated the Parent Teacher Association's anniversary with a special Founders Day celebration at the middle school.

Hosted by the PTA Council, the evening included introductions of past presidents, special awards presentations, a sneak preview from the middle school cast of *High School Musical*, a history of the Lindenhurst PTAs and Founders Day, and a special Battle of the PTAs trivia challenge, won by the Middle School PTA.

Congratulations to John Drenckhahn for receiving the Friends of PTA award, Laura Chapter for receiving the New York State Distinguished Service Award, and Gina Barone for being honored with the Distinguished Service Award. A special thank-you is extended to the parents, administrators and staff involved in this important organization, for their dedication to helping the students of Lindenhurst.



Founders Day coordinators congratulate the middle school team on winning the Battle of the PTAs Trivia Challenge.

## An Evening When SCIENCE Comes Alive

The district held its first "Evening of Science" at Lindenhurst High School recently, with more than 450 elementary students and parents in attendance. Under the leadership of Michael Polochak, and the assistance of many high school science teachers, students from the Science Club and the science research program created approximately two dozen hands-on science activities, demonstrations, and interactive stations for the elementary students to explore.



Centrifugal force is demonstrated at Lindenhurst High School's Evening of Science.

Stations included experiments on the senses of touch, smell and sound, a fossil dig station, a simulation of a sunken forest, and activities and demonstrations concerning insects and bugs, live reptiles, butterflies, electricity, magnetism, and solids, liquids and gases.

The hallways were filled with additional displays on centrifugal force, the human body, the food web, DNA, tornados, and dancing raisins. Attendees had the opportunity to make their own bird feeder and paper parrots. The students and parents also enjoyed a Mad Science Workshop during which they created "goo," had fun with dry ice, and took home temperature-sensitive color cups.

"It's great to see the hard work all the high school students put into creating these hands-on stations, which lead to such a wonderful experience for our elementary students," commented Lindenhurst School District Science Coordinator Alan Meister.



Lindenhurst High School's science club presented an Evening of Science to district elementary students.



Students display their sunken forest at the Evening of Science.

## Noteworthy Achievements

Congratulations to the following 15 Lindenhurst High School students who entered the Creative Expression Young Artist Showcase and Exhibition held at the Ward Melville Heritage Organization.

- Gabriela Bozza
- Dorothy Chiapperino
- Kaithlyn Clifford
- Taylor Dammann
- Saran Frohn
- Holly Kaiser
- Caroline Lares
- Gabrielle Marinci
- Kinga Nagorka
- Nicole Raneri
- Emily Shock
- Kaithlyn Smith
- James Terrell
- Shannon Tingo
- Deanne Trincari

# Elementary Learning

## A Magical PARP Program for Rall

Students at William Rall Elementary School enjoyed a memorable Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program this year, which centered on the theme “Reading is Magical.”

Parents, students and teachers packed the gymnasium for the kickoff event - a PTA-sponsored “Magic Bob Show.” Students were amused as their principal was playfully ‘sawed’ in half. They all watched in awe, wearing magical hats and carefully carrying magic wands, as Principal Patricia Castine stood up in one piece at the end of the act, receiving great applause.

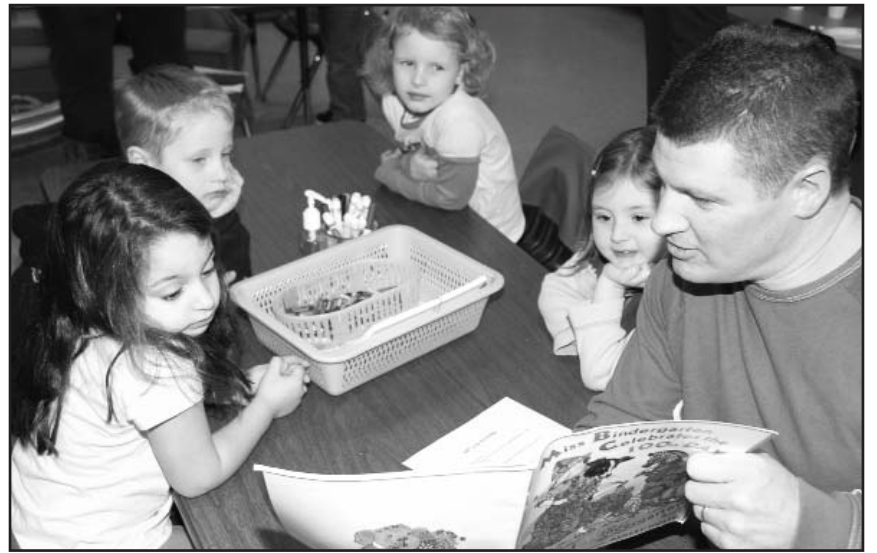
Ms. Castine also met the students’ challenge and dressed up as a rock star and performed the chicken dance. Throughout the week, students made bookmarks, shared their favorite book character, turned off the television and read, and participated in a reading scavenger hunt.

This year’s finale was a Rall version of “Teacher Feud,” modeled after the popular game show *Family Feud*. Students created questions and cheered for their teachers. One student from each grade won a Barnes and Noble gift certificate in this year’s raffle.

“PARP was a huge success this year,” declared teacher and coordinator Stacey Bressi.



William Rall Elementary students help Magic Bob at the PARP Magic Show.



Parent Mr. Hoogervorst enjoyed reading *Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day* to kindergarten students at West Gates.

## WEST GATES CELEBRATES 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Two days later than planned due to snow days, kindergarteners from West Gates Avenue Elementary School celebrated the 100th day of school.

Students in Allison Drobner’s and Christine Coles’s classes enjoyed the special celebration by utilizing “centers,” or various activities that focused on the number 100. The children assembled into smaller groups to participate in the learning.

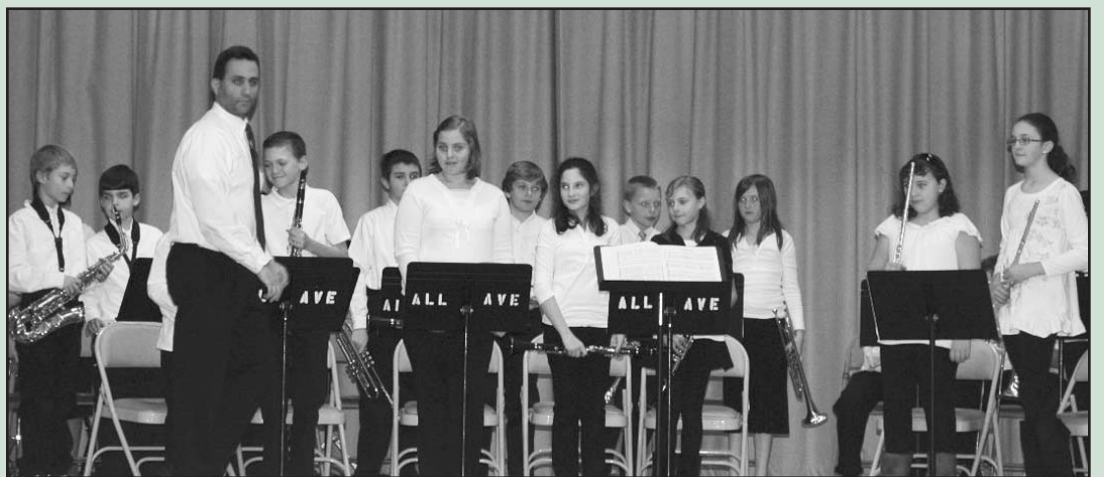
Students built blocks, made colorful Fruit Loop necklaces, read books, designed headbands with school buses, stamped, and participated in penny tosses. They enjoyed counting to a hundred by tens by addition. Parent volunteers read the popular children’s book *Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day* to the students.



West Gates kindergarteners used various stamps to help count during the 100th day of school celebration.

## Alleghany Avenue Band Performs

The Alleghany Avenue Elementary School fifth-grade band, under the leadership of teacher Anthony Oliveto, performed at the January Community Forum. Dressed in traditional concert black and white, the band played “The Big Rock,” arranged by Dale Lauder, and “Sawmill Creek,” arranged by Bruce Pearson.



The Alleghany Avenue Elementary school fifth-grade band.

# Across the District



Town of Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone joins Albany Avenue Principal Frank Grotschel at Community Reader Night.

## Albany Reads Aloud, Gathers a Crowd

Albany Avenue Elementary School held its annual Lindenhurst Community Reader Night recently to celebrate their Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program. This year's theme was "Read Aloud, Gather a Crowd."

Guest reader Superintendent Richard Nathan began the festivities by reading one of his favorites, *Math Attack*. Other readers included Town of Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone, County Legislator Wayne Horsley, Cub Scout leader Brian McHugh, former Lindenhurst High School Valedictorian John Reynolds, firefighter Joe Delio, Police Officer Jack, librarian Miss

Sandy, and pediatrician Dr. Zev Gensler.

The evening included dinosaur trivia, concentration games and making bookmarks. "It was a wonderful family reading event," exclaimed Co-chairperson Jennifer Dawnkashi.



Superintendent Richard Nathan with Albany Avenue fifth graders at Community Reader Night.

## "No Name Calling" at Bower

Students at E.W. Bower Elementary School recently participated in the second annual "No Name Calling" week to promote educational activities aimed at ending name calling of all kinds. The school used the occasion to inspire an ongoing conversation about ways to eliminate bullying.

Teachers led classroom discussions and encouraged students to exercise good behavior, tolerance, and maintain friendships. Special recess activities included a unique version of Simon Says, designed to encourage children to learn more about each other, as well as a schoolwide bookmark design contest. The hallways at Bower were also decorated with bully-free drawings.

"The week was filled with great activities for all grades," explained program coordinator and social worker Melissa Levy. Teachers utilized guided imagery techniques to allow students to visualize a world without bullies and name-calling.



Bookmark design contest winners (l-r) Hailee Shehuh, Leigha Peluso, Kimmarie McCrann, and Alexis Provenz show off their successful creations.

## HARDING ART SERVICE CLUB CREATES MURALS FOR WELLWOOD AVENUE STOREFRONTS

Harding Avenue Elementary School fifth-grade students in the Art Service Club created beautiful, reusable murals that will be displayed in storefronts on Wellwood Avenue and at the McKenna Administration Building.

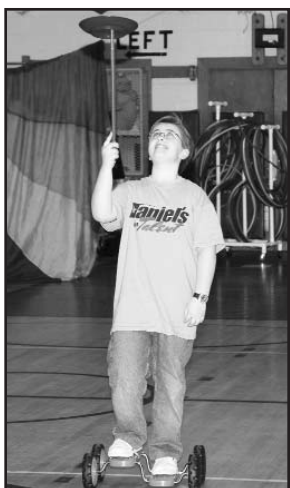
Twenty-six children designed and painted 15 full-color murals on wood using acrylic paint. The students learned the value of working together on a group project and how the visual arts can impact lives. "We hope our efforts will enhance the town's appearance during these difficult financial times," said art teacher Missy Longo-Lewis. "The village will seem brighter with these creations adorning its windows."

Many of the murals communicated valuable messages, including promoting recycling, and emphasizing world peace by utilizing a clever puzzle design.

Thank you to Aller's Lumber, Bak and Vogel, and the Lindenhurst BID Committee for their generous donations.



Harding Art Service Club students Alexandra Pereira, Shannan Lydon, Gabriella Zima, Bailee Lawlor, Taylor Hazelton, and Kelsie Lopez, with teacher Missy Longo-Lewis, show their murals.



A Daniel Street fifth grader balances himself while spinning a plate during the circus performance.

## Daniel Fifth Graders Perform Circus Acts

The Daniel Street Elementary School gymnasium turned into the 'Big Top' as the fifth-grade students performed their own version of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus acts for students in the younger grades.

Fifth graders walked on stilts, moved through giant hula hoops, tumbled, played ring toss, spun plates and performed various balancing acts (often while performing another acrobatic act) as a part of their performance.

"Everyone seemed to really enjoy this," exclaimed physical education teacher Kelly Dietz. "The fifth graders did an awesome job putting it all together."



Daniel Street fifth graders after their circus performance for the kindergarteners.



Italian Club students pose for a photo in front of the historic Roman Coliseum in Italy.

## Italian Club Visits Italy

Thirty-six 11th and 12th graders from Lindenhurst High School, under the supervision of guidance counselor and Italian Club advisor John Rossillo, recently traveled to Italy. The nine-day excursion stopped in Milan, Sorrento, Venice, Florence, Rome and Pompeii.

Students toured historic and cultural sites in Italy, including the Roman Coliseum, the Vatican, the Statue of David, and Spanish Steps. They enjoyed taking gondola rides through the canals in Venice. "I loved Italy – the country is historic and beautiful, and the food is amazing," exclaimed eleventh-grade student Danny Langone.

## Lindenhurst Thespians Present *Urinetown, the Musical*

The Lindenhurst High School Thespian Troupe performed *Urinetown, the Musical* in the school auditorium in January in front of a full audience. The show's premise that people must pay to use the bathroom controlled by a monopolizing sewage company presented unique sarcasm that had the audiences laughing.

"If you can get past the title, this show was an appropriate and rewarding experience for Lindenhurst High School," observed director John Savastano. The show's producer, Carmine Carnevale, added, "It was an amazing experience for everyone involved." Thank you to all the people who put in the time and passion for a successful musical.



Lindenhurst High School students in *Urinetown, the Musical*.

## "Souper" Bowl of Caring

Lindenhurst High School held its second annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" charity cook-off to benefit Habitat for Humanity and Island Harvest. More than 600 people attended the festivities, which raised approximately \$4,000.

The event consisted of chili and soup tasting, raffles, a D.J., and face painting, with the goal of raising awareness to fight hunger and poverty.

The cook-off winners were Mike Smith's "Sweet Chili" and Brittney Winters and Frank Carrier's "Grandma's Homemade Chicken Soup." Ralph Viggiano won the Fan Favorite with his "Seafood Chowder in a Bread Bowl."

Character in Action students, under the leadership of Assistant Principal Al Cirone, supervised the festivities. There were more than 50 participants including local restaurants, clubs, sports teams, faculty members, parent-teacher associations, the fire department and community organizations.

Extra food was taken to the Wyandanch Soup Kitchen.

## Football Stats Spark Super Bowl Fever

Lindenhurst High School's Statistics class, administered in conjunction with Dowling College, recently analyzed National Football League (NFL) statistics in celebration of Super Bowl Sunday.

Students developed statistics related to the number of running/passing yards, the percentages of passes (completed-to-attempted ratios), along with creating frequency polygons pertaining to touchdowns verses intercepted plays. Students were assigned different quarterbacks and were asked to compare/analyze the 2009 NFL statistics to past performances.

"The seniors did an amazing job," observed teacher Maureen Garofalo.



LHS student works on computer graphics imaging.



Lindenhurst High School students admire the digital photography display.

## ART SHOW DISPLAYS WORKS OF TALENTED STUDENTS

Lindenhurst High School artists displayed their talents during the school's annual art show, held in the school rotunda. The show consisted of a diverse collection of student artwork, including illustrations, paintings, drawings, sculptures, sketch art, photographs, computer graphics and digital video productions.

Attendees witnessed artists in action, as students in the computer graphics program demonstrated their talents. Digital Photo teacher Suzette Picozzi said, "The students truly enjoy showcasing their work, and displayed various art forms that represent the variety of courses offered by the arts program."



Lindenhurst High School statistics seniors TJ Kirkland, Bill Vobis, Ken Gentile, Chris Mark, Jess Wendland, Michael Furia and Kenny St. John in front of the football statistics display.



Lindenhurst High School students enjoyed the Souper Bowl for Caring and (right) Ralph Viggiano pours some of his seafood chowder.



# NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY AT LMS

Lindenhurst Middle School celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day with a special breakfast to honor 170 seventh and eighth-grade female student-athletes. These students were honored for their achievements on and off the field, in leadership and dedication to their teams.

The theme of this year's celebration, now in its 10th year, was "Stay Strong, Play On." Middle school athletes were awarded certificates and blue T-shirts. The guest speaker this year was teacher and coach Michelle Cicero.

"This program is an honor for all female middle school athletes," said organizer Andrea Curran. National Girls and Women in Sports Day is a nationwide celebration that incorporates community-based events, ceremonies, and activities honoring the achievements, and encouraging participation of, girls and young women in sports.



Middle School athletes celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLDS ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Lindenhurst Middle School recently held its annual blood drive for which they collected more than 80 pints of blood. Student volunteers helped donors fill out forms and replenish liquids.

"Giving blood takes so little of our time and effort, but it can save lives," said coordinator Lisa Carboy. "Thank you to all the volunteers and the people that took time out of their day to donate blood."



Administrators and students worked together at the Middle School Blood Drive to collect more than 80 pints of blood.

## Champions Continue Lindy Pride

Congratulations to the Champions for all their Lindy pride displayed at Lindenhurst Middle School. In January, thirteen students, nominated by their teachers, were rewarded with a breakfast at the Lindencrest Diner. Coordinated by Debbie Gloor, this is the 12th year the school's Student Council has sponsored this event.

"I am proud of each and every one of you for all your accomplishments," declared Middle School Assistant Principal Bruce Hoffman.

The January champions included Nick Biondo, Dominique Caggiano, Mike Coppola, Kelly Dietz, Ari Espino, James Goodman, Taylor Grasso, Thomas Jansson, Katelyn Matcovsky, Alexa Randazzo, Jakub Szady, Jake Vollaro, and Kimberly Walters.



Congratulations to the January Breakfast for Champions winners, shown here with Assistant Principal Bruce Hoffman and program coordinator Debbie Gloor.

## Lindenhurst Middle School Celebrates Read Across America

Lindenhurst Middle School recognized Read Across America with a special Dr. Seuss birthday celebration. The party included guest readers, raffles for books, bookmarks, and birthday cake. Select stories, poems and essays were read to students throughout the day. Library Media Specialist Elizabeth Wood started off each session with the "Reading Oath," encouraging students to read.



Library Media Specialist Elizabeth Wood, with a cardboard cutout of Dr. Seuss as the middle school celebrated Read Across America.

Classic Dr. Seuss books such as *The Cat in the Hat* were read, along with excerpts from the "Chicken Soup" series and "Where the Sidewalk Ends" poems and drawings of Shel Silverstein. Art teacher Carmella Bodes created a special cardboard Dr. Seuss and painted characters from the books. "It was an opportunity for teachers to share their love of reading with students," exclaimed Ms. Wood.

The program is sponsored by the National Educational Association (NEA) to honor Dr. Seuss's birthday. Many thanks to all of the volunteer readers who helped make the birthday special.



Middle School students celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday as a part of Read Across America.

Congratulations to the February Breakfast for Champions...

Eric Brodzinski, Rebecca Conway, Alec Croissiert, Maria Cuttone, Nico Eden, Kathleen Ferrara, Jeremiah Gunter, Tyler Martin, Alexis Perdue, and Kenny Smith.



## Lindy Boys Basketball Reaches Semifinals

The Lindenhurst High School Boys Basketball team's playoff run ended at the hands of the Longwood Lions by a score of 79-62 in the semifinals held at Farmingdale State University. It was a close first half, until Longwood pulled away in the third quarter. Lindenhurst sophomore Stu Warren scored 23 points and senior Kamil Parzych added 13 points in his final game as a Bulldog.

Lindy advanced to the semifinals with a win over West Babylon in the Suffolk Class AA quarterfinals. In that game, Stu scored 26 points, followed by Kamil with 20. Rob Balkam added 14 points, including four three-pointers.

*The Bulldogs ended their successful season with a record of 15-6.*



## Lindy Swim Team Sets New School Record



Record-breaking freestyle relay team (l-r) Adam Warro, Karol Konarski, James Rostrup and Kevin Konarski take down the sign displaying the old record.

The Lindenhurst High School Boys 200-yard freestyle relay team established a new school record (surpassing the mark set in 1994) with a time of 1:33.95. The relay team is comprised of senior Karol Konarski, juniors Adam Warro and James Rostrup, and freshman Kevin Konarski.

"This record-breaking event was special. The team members of this relay have been trying to 'take the old record down' for a few years," said coach Brian Avellino. They literally did, removing the old sign posted on the gymnasium wall (above).

The team participated at the Eastern States Long Island Invitational and swam well, finishing 14th out of 28 teams. Freshman Kevin Konarski also won third place in the 200-yard freestyle.

At the recent County Championships, Kevin Konarski set a new school record in the 200-yard freestyle and earned a spot on the Section XI state team.

## SPRING TRAINING BEGINS

Lindenhurst High School's Varsity Baseball team is expected to be an exciting and successful group to watch this year, as the nucleus of the team has won 30 games over the past two seasons.

The Bulldogs are led by returning All-County and All-State player Jimmy Briggs. Jimmy won the Silver Slugger award as the county's top offensive player last year when he led Long Island with 13 home runs and a .440 batting average. Jon McGibbon returns for his fourth year as a Varsity starter, and has attracted the attention of Major League Baseball scouts. Steve Skon returns to play shortstop. He has been an All-League player for the past two years. Co-captains senior Ken Gentile and junior Mike Roehrig will also play important roles for the Bulldogs.

Senior Tom Bammann returns for his third season as a starting pitcher and is anticipated to anchor the pitching staff, which also includes top pitchers Dan DiBlasi, Joe Lovizio and newcomer Rich Vrana. Other varsity players expected to be major contributors include Ryan Gillespie, Vin Trapani, Zach Durbin, Ryan Manning, Alex Genao, and Marc Gelson.

"Coach Rogers and I are proud of the commitment our players have made. Everyone has worked hard to be the best he can be," observed Coach Mike Canobbio.

## Lindy Wrestling Team Says Farewell to Seniors

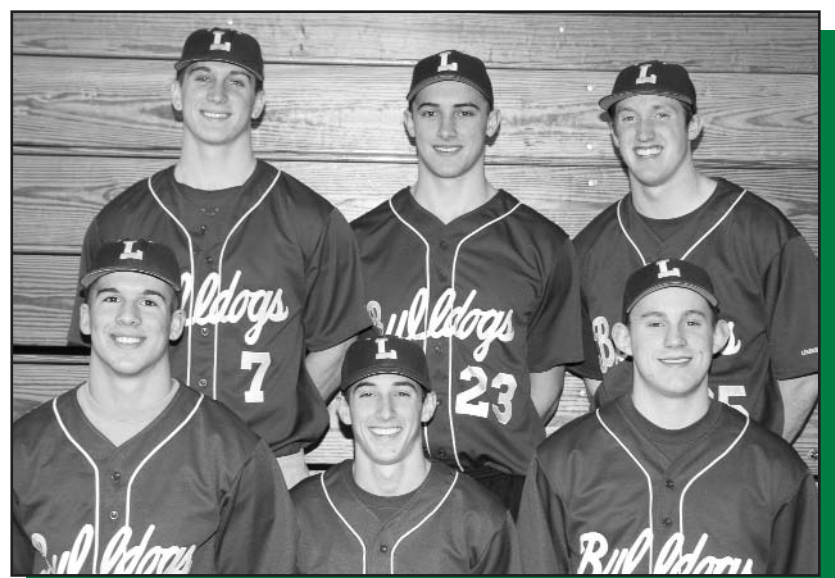
The Lindenhurst High School Wrestling team held a special ceremony to bid farewell to the 14 senior members who will graduate this June. "It is always sad to see seniors go, especially the ones that have been with the team for years," said coach Ronald Frole. The ceremony was held on Alumni/Senior Night during the intermission between Junior Varsity and Varsity matches against Bay Shore.

The seniors are A.J. Aleman, Gerson Alvarez, Rob Castillo, Amin Cid, Ryan Clark, John Corbett, Kyle Delgado, Mike Grieco, Chris Pentaleri, Dom Ramirez, Mike Riselvato, Vin Roy, Andrew Traficante and Sean Walsh.

In addition, the audience enjoyed a special ceremony honoring Lindenhurst's National Wrestling Hall of Fame members Paul Brodmerkel, Ken Cellan, Robert "Doc" Fallot, Jack Mahoney, Joe Russo and Jack Stanbro. "Lindenhurst is widely known nationally and internationally for its outstanding contributions to the sport of wrestling," noted Neil Duncan from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



The Wrestling team's seniors with their parents at Alumni/Senior night.



Top Row (l-r): seniors Jon McGibbon, Jimmy Briggs and Tom Bammann. Bottom Row (l-r): junior Steve Skon, senior Ken Gentile, and junior Mike Roehrig.