



LINDY SPOTLIGHT

LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Lindenhurst Union Free School District

DECEMBER 2010

E.W. Bower Elementary School to Close Its Doors in June

After years of discussion and a comprehensive demographic study, the Lindenhurst School District will be closing the E.W. Bower Elementary School at the end of this school year due to enrollment decreases districtwide, the economic downturn and budget deficits. The decision was made official at the recent Board of Education Public Hearing, held at Lindenhurst High School.

At the hearing, the Board of Education, under the recommendation of Superintendent Richard Nathan, voted unanimously on the closing of Bower. Bower students will be divided and relocated to Harding Avenue and West Gates Avenue Elementary Schools. A small number of special education students currently housed at Bower will now attend Albany Avenue Elementary School. Mr. Nathan recommended leasing the Bower building. He estimated the measure would save the school district approximately \$1.5 million annually, which equates to about 2% savings in the tax levy.

The final decision to close Bower has been a lengthy process. The district commissioned a demographic study through Western Suffolk BOCES to analyze enrollment projections and facility use. Other cost-saving measures of school consolidation were also considered.

Mr. Nathan said, "This has been an extremely difficult decision for us to make. However, our district has to look at the long term and the financial difficulties we are facing. It is important to be fiscally responsible to all the constituents of Lindenhurst while making sure that our district remains the home of great schools."

The district is currently developing a transition plan to assist students, parents and staff. More detailed information will soon be sent to current Bower families.

29 Students Honored with Community Service Awards

Twenty-nine students from the Lindenhurst School District were recognized with the prestigious Presidential Service Award, given to students who complete a minimum of 50 hours of community service. Students were honored at the November PTA Council meeting, during which Assemblyman Robert Sweeney presented the certificates.

Congratulations to the following service award recipients:

Alyssa Berrent
Bryan Berrent
Melissa Castiglione
Samantha Castiglione
Jamie Sciascia
Jacqueline Poeggel
Tianna D'Italia
Doriann Lewis
Eileen McNulty
Kristi Geyer
Hailey Spinella
Mario Martinez
James Henn
Jonathan Mencarelli

Kyle Lindenberg
Jenna Aenle
Alyssa Schwalb
Sivayoga Yokeeswaran
Amanda Bartolomeo
Taner Ayden
Brittany Berrent
Kyle Cropsey
Ryan Rene Rosado
Michael D'Italia
Annibelys Reyes
Nikki Sciascia
Ryan Young
Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski

"We are proud of this year's Community Service Award recipients," stated event chairpersons Gina Berrett and Julie Cicchetti.



Assemblyman Robert Sweeney and Superintendent Richard Nathan, with event co-chairpersons Gina Berrett and Julie Cicchetti, and this year's recipients of the Presidential Service Awards.



LINDENHURST PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Lindenhurst PRESCHOOL Evaluation Center

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.

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). Lindenhurst Public Schools operates a Preschool Evaluation Center which conducts English and/or bilingual evaluations for children 2 ½ through 5 years of age **at no cost to parents**. The evaluations can be conducted at the child's home, preschool that they attend, or at the evaluation center located in the Administration Building, 350 Daniel Street, in the preschool office.

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.

Children may be eligible for services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, special education, physical therapy, an integrated preschool program, or a half or full-day special education program **at no cost to the parents**.

Together we can help your child reach his or her potential so that he or she can succeed. For further information, please contact the Preschool Special Education Office at (631) 867-3110.

Superintendent's Conference Day Enhances Knowledge

The Lindenhurst School District conducted its annual Superintendent's Conference Day on Election Day, where many of the district's employees came together for a day of professional development and to brainstorm ideas to continually improve our schools.

The OWL Teacher Center conducted a survey to see what teachers wanted to enhance their staff development. "The workshops were taught by Lindenhurst teachers," explained Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel Dr. Robert Tymann. High school and middle school teachers and specialists attended workshops at the high school, and elementary teachers were in their own buildings.

Superintendent Richard Nathan and Dr. Tymann welcomed everyone and guided staff to the various workshops. The workshops included SmartBoard technology, assessments, writing, eBoards, teaching vocabulary, improving communication, and preparing students for the 21st century.

Teachers reinforced the morning's workshops with departmental and grade-specific topics. The Foreign Language and ESL Department, under the leadership of Coordinator Steven Sonkin, enjoyed an international cooking demonstration.



Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator Rose Marvel worked on a musical dance with her staff.



Lindenhurst English teachers discussion group session at Superintendent's Conference Day.

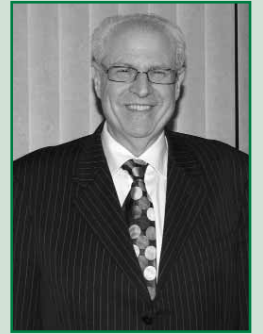
SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Education is more important now than ever before. The knowledge and skills our children acquire are critical in preparing them for the world into which they'll graduate. What are the skills we want to imbue our students with? We want them to be intellectually curious, to become life-long learners, to be accepting of and eager to listen to new ideas. Ideally, we want our students to be technologically and financially literate. We'd like our students to appreciate other cultures and to get along with people from different backgrounds. It is important for them to appreciate art, music, and literature, to be knowledgeable of and well-versed in mathematics and science, and to serve their communities and society. As we examine these lofty goals, it is clear that we need to evaluate what we have, determine what we can do to improve, and identify what resources we need to make those improvements.

As we continue to forge ahead and to make educational advancements, we realize there are continued financial issues looming before us. We anticipate the loss of federal stimulus funds (approximately \$1.9 million); continued increases in teacher and employee retirement system contributions and in health care contributions; new NYS mandates related to assessments, teacher and administrative evaluations, and revised standards for curriculum and instruction; additional cuts in state aid as a result of \$9 billion more in NYS deficits; and a possible tax cap that may be as limiting as 2%. The decision to close E.W. Bower Elementary School is not an easy one. While we understand that closing a school is an emotional issue and may lead to feelings of displacement for Bower students, staff, parents and other members of the Bower school community, we believe it is important to be fiscally responsible to all the constituents of Lindenhurst, while making sure that our district remains the home of great schools. The annual savings in closing Bower is approximately \$1.5 million, which translates to about a 2% savings in the tax levy.

As the holidays approach, many of us think back to our childhoods and remember some favorite times with loved ones that seemed magical in many ways. We often associate the words joy, peace, hope, and love with this special time of year. We send greetings to one another via cards, phone calls, e-mails, text messages, and in person. The holiday spirit tends to lift our moods and heightens our awareness of those special persons around us, as well as those far away. Please remember that the holiday season is an opportunity for us to reflect on our blessings and remember that the true meaning of the season is the gift of ourselves to others.

I extend my wish to all members of the Lindenhurst school community that the joy and contentment of the season be yours. May you experience the warmth of love, the promise of hope, and lasting peace in the new year!



SUPERINTENDENT INDUCTED IN ROTARY

Superintendent Richard Nathan was recently inducted in the Lindenhurst Rotary Club.

"I am honored to be a part of such a prestigious organization," Mr. Nathan remarked.



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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 wish you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and hope you enjoy the holiday recess.

Recently, the Board of Education voted to keep our vacant board seat open until the next district election, which is in May of 2011. We would like to thank those who have expressed interest in filling the vacancy and we are sure that there will be qualified candidates running for election in the spring.

On Wednesday, December 1, the Board of Education voted unanimously to close the E.W. Bower Elementary School at the end of the current school year. This decision was very difficult. After a thorough and inclusive two-year process, we found it necessary and in the best interests of the district as a whole. We now will focus on a successful transition for the Bower students and families. The closing of an elementary school is a very sensitive and emotional issue. While we are aware that this decision may not be popular in the Bower community, please know that the Bower Elementary community is by far the best represented on our Board.

Approximately two years ago, considering the nation's economic crisis and declining enrollment, the Board of Education commissioned Western Suffolk BOCES to complete a demographic study of the district. About a year and a half ago, the projections of future student enrollment and options to restructure student housing were presented to the district. The district's administration analyzed the findings and prepared a recommendation to the Board. In July 2010, Western Suffolk BOCES provided the district with an updated report. On October 13, the district held a Community Input Night on the Restructuring of Student Housing. Following a PowerPoint presentation by the Superintendent and a statement from the Board, all those who were interested in speaking on the issue did so and we thank them for their input.

On November 10, the Board held a workshop on the matter. The Superintendent presented an Educational Impact Statement on the closing of Bower. The Board of Education had extensive discussion and once again the community was given the opportunity to address the issue. On December 1, the Public Hearing on the closing of Bower was held. Following an overview of the proposal by administration and further input from the community, the Board of Education voted unanimously to close Bower at the end of the school year.

In addition to being responsible for the education of over 6,700 children, we are also responsible to balance the district's budget and present a property tax rate to the community that our hard-working residents can afford. Closing Bower will save taxpayers \$1.5 million, which translates to a 2% savings in the tax levy. The budget process for the 2010-2011 school year was the most difficult in decades. We did not want to eliminate 43 teaching positions along with cutting programs and increasing class sizes, but once again, we had no choice. As long as the State does not provide Lindenhurst with the necessary financial support to educate our children, we are going to have to continue to do more with less.

The district enters the 2011-2012 budget process with the State in an even worse financial situation, possibly resulting in less state aid. The governor supports a tax cap. We are faced with the loss of millions in federal stimulus dollars, sky-rocketing health premiums, and increased retirement systems costs. Tough decisions will continue. The children of the Bower community will still receive a quality education; It will just be in a different location. The approximately \$1.5 million savings the district will realize will result in fewer programs being cut. At this time, the district has decided not to put the Bower building and property up for sale. Such action would require voter approval. We are going to be entertaining possible tenants for the facility. Be assured that the Board of Education will look for tenants who are responsible and who will use the facility in an appropriate fashion. Rental payments could even provide the district further financial relief, once again possibly resulting in fewer budget cuts. The district is moving forward with a transition committee to ensure that the Bower students and families make the move to West Gates and Harding as seamless as possible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the transition process, please contact the Superintendent's Office.

We are very proud of the progress our children have made over the past decade, as our test scores have been improving year after year. If we continue to work together, we will get through these rough financial times and our ultimate goal of Lindenhurst being the home of great schools will be achieved.

Thank you,

Edward J. Murphy, Jr.
Board of Education President

Riverhead Post Office Dedication

Lindenhurst Middle School teacher Erik Eve spoke eloquently at the dedication of the Riverhead Post Office to Private First Class Garfield M. Langhorn. Forty-six middle and high school students attended the event, where they witnessed the unveiling of a dedication plaque and listened to their teacher pay tribute to a man who gave his life for others.

"PFC Garfield Langhorn sacrificed his life as he saved the lives of his comrades. My



LHS students at the Riverhead Post Office Dedication.



LMS teacher Erik Eve speaks at the Riverhead Post Office Dedication.

father was one of the people whose lives were saved that day," explained Mr. Eve. Mr. Langhorn was a United States Army soldier who received America's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions in the Vietnam War.

On January 15, 1969, Mr. Langhorn threw himself on a live grenade to save fellow soldiers. The people who visit the post office will be reminded of his extraordinary service and sacrifice.

An Enchanted Evening of Music History



Members of the string ensemble enjoyed "An Evening of Music History."

Lindenhurst High School's Tri-M Music Honor Society presented "An Evening of Music History" at the Lindenhurst Public Library, coordinated by music teachers Elyse Gellert and Charles Pramnieks.

Current Tri-M members Phil Abbruscato, Brandon Ahl, Megan Aquilina, Naomi Asch, Hailey Berkowitz, Abigail Gillam, Doriann Lewis, Lauren Lindemann, Cassandra Price, Caroline Rakus-Wojciechowski, Valerie San Filippo and

Robert Schwartz performed various vocal, string and instrumental pieces from different periods of music.

Tri-M – which stands for Modern Music Masters – is an organization which admits music students from grades 9-12 who exhibit high musical and academic achievement. Candidates are selected based on scholarship, character, leadership, cooperation and service.

"We are very fortunate to have such talented, dedicated and educated students at Lindenhurst High School," stated Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts Rose Marvel.

"The wonderful part of Tri-M is that students from each performing group - band, chorus and orchestra - can unite and share their love for music."



Lauren Lindemann entertains the audience with her flute.

Four Choral Students Perform in Countywide Concert

Four Lindenhurst High School students were selected to perform in the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education and Suffolk County Music Educator's Association All-County concert.

The concert took place at Half Hollow Hills East High School.

KUDOS TO:

Carlos Delossantos – Tenor, Mixed Chorus
Michael Errico – Baritone, Mixed Chorus
Naomi Asch – Soprano 1, Women's Chorus
Cassandra Price – Soprano 1, Women's Chorus



Lindenhurst High School students (L-R) Naomi Asch, Michael Errico, Carlos Delossantos and Cassandra Price, with Choral Director Charles Pramnieks.

"Congratulations to all of our students who were selected. I know they had a wonderful experience performing with students across Suffolk County," said Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts Rose M. Marvel.

Elementary Learning

SENATOR FUSCHILLO *Visits Albany Avenue Readers*

Albany Avenue Elementary School honored 35 students who participated in the summer reading program with a special ice cream party with New York State Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. from the 8th District.



Senator Charles Fuschillo with third grader Brianna Franzese.

Senator Fuschillo enjoyed talking with the students, as everyone enjoyed ice cream with various toppings. The Senator also read "House Mouse, Senate Mouse" by Peter and Cheryl Barnes, explaining to students how

branches of government are made. This book explains the branches of government using a cute story about mice.

Students in all grades were invited to participate in the summer reading program, which required students to read a minimum of three books over the summer and to write a summary of each book. The program encourages students to continue reading outside of school during the summer months.



Daniel Street's fifth-grade students present unique percussion music under the leadership of Philip Ricciardi at a recent Community Forum.

Daniel Select Musicians Present a Unique Percussion Performance

Congratulations to the Daniel Street Elementary School students for a unique percussion performance at the Community Forum, under the leadership of Philip Ricciardi. Mr. Ricciardi performed with his grade 5 music students.

In this piece, students performed using their speaking and singing voices, and also played pitched percussion instruments. The song was titled "Listen" which focuses on the concept of listening, and teaches improvisational skills.

Students read note rhythm patterns and learned about the Rondo format, in which the song always returns back to the main section of the piece.

Patricia Shih Entertains Harding Avenue Students



Patricia Shih performed during Red Ribbon Week with Harding Avenue students and faculty.

Harding Avenue Elementary School students enjoyed a special Arts-in-Education presentation with award-winning singer/songwriter Patricia Shih. She presented a lively, multicultural show complete with audience participation, sing-alongs, critical thinking, and a lot of humor.

Ms. Shih has written over 250 songs. She continues to perform for all ages, appears on television and radio, and especially loves bringing her music to schools such as Harding Avenue.

"The students and staff thought she was very entertaining," said Principal Brian Chamberlin. "Her songs are well-written and everyone participated."



Mrs. Lohman's second-grade class enjoyed dressing up at the annual costume parade.

Allegheny Students Parade Costumes

The annual Allegheny Avenue costume parade took place the Friday before Halloween on the Lindenhurst Middle School fields. The younger grades enjoyed marching around the track and showed off their favorite costumes. Costumes were secured on tight, despite the strong afternoon winds.



Mrs. Diaz's second graders at the annual Allegheny Avenue costume parade.

Across The District



West Gates Fifth Graders Perform "The Breath of Life"

Ms. Prenderville's fifth graders at West Gates Elementary School recently performed "The Breath of Life," a play written by Judith Bauer Stamper, for American Education Week.

The play was about Garrett Augustus Morgan and the disaster at the Cleveland Water Works Tunnel in July 1916. Garrett Morgan was the inventor of the gas mask. In his days, it was better known as a "safety hood." The invention was significant in the area of fire and disaster aid. More than a dozen men were trapped in the Cleveland tunnel, which filled with smoke and poisonous gases, 200 feet under Lake Erie. The class had many discussions on how the subject of the play was similar to the Chilean miners' story from recent weeks.



Ms. Prenderville's fifth graders after their performance of "The Breath of Life."

North Lindy Fire Department Visits Rall

The North Lindenhurst Fire Department visited students at William Rall Elementary School to discuss fire safety and to demonstrate what should be done in case of a fire. Students attended a short assembly on the importance



Smiling William Rall first graders learn about fire safety.

of smoke detectors and creating a family fire exit plan. After the assembly, students exited the building to the school parking lot, where a "smoke house" and large fire truck were waiting.

The smoke house is a trailer designed to show students what to do in a fire. Fake smoke, imitating a real fire, poured from the house. Students were shown how to drop to their knees, go to the nearest door, and exit promptly. They were then given a detailed



A William Rall first grader climbs down a ladder with help at the fire safety demonstration.

tour of the fire truck. Members of the fire department explained what their different tools are used for.

Thank you to the North Lindenhurst Fire Department volunteers who shared their knowledge and expertise to educate William Rall students.

Bower Summer Readers Recognized



Fourth and fifth-grade participants in the Owen Johnson Summer Reading Program, along with Superintendent Richard Nathan (left), and Reading Specialists Maria Bohrer (left) and Debra Mauro (right).

For the fourth consecutive year, E.W. Bower Elementary School students who participated in Senator Owen Johnson's Summertime Reading Program were rewarded with a luncheon at Silver Pheasant Restaurant on Montauk Highway. This year, 52 students read three or more books and wrote summaries for each one. Readers were also given special certificates.

The students were congratulated by Superintendent Richard Nathan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel Dr. Robert Tymann, Lindenhurst Village Trustee Maryann Weckerle, and Bower Principal Donna Smawley. The event is coordinated each year by Reading Specialists Maria Bohrer and Debra Mauro.

The students enjoyed discussing the books they read while eating a delicious lunch prepared by Chef Suzanne Oleaga. Christopher Oleaga, the proprietor of Silver Pheasant, gave every student a bag of candy as they departed. All participating students enjoyed this special reward for reading this summer.



Lindenhurst High School

73 Lindenhurst High Students Earn Advanced Placement Scholar Awards

Seventy-three students at Lindenhurst High School have earned Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on these exams.

Fourteen students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Randy Arboleda, Jonathan Belanich, Jeffrey Bird, Katharine Byrne, Richard Duque, Riana Kuttler, Joseph Lovizio, Thomas Owens, Michael Rossiello, Noah Schmitt, Thomas Shrank, Kenneth St-John, Dan Sztanga, and Robert Wadolowski.

Eighteen students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Brandon Ahl, Mina Aknouk, Gary Arman, Andrew Astore, Scott Bertolino, Paul Castonguay, Laura Cecchetto, Michael Ficurilli, Karol Konarski, Vinod Kumar, Caroline Lares, Jacquelyn Marr, Dana Murano, Joy Pawirosetiko, Craig Podszus, Tyler Rieger, Michael Rutkowski, and Sonica Sundri.

Forty-one students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars



Lindenhurst High School's Advanced Placement Scholars with Principal Daniel Giordano

are Philip Abbruscato, Dariusz Adamczyk, Taner Aydin, Thomas Bisaccio, Nora Boujida, Morgen Coiro, Luis Colon, Michael Corcoran, Lawrence Crehan, Harrison Cullen, Ashley Cunningham, Kristy David-Ramphal, Richard Demaio, Marissa Espinoza, Kevin Farley, Alexandra Fitzpatrick, Michael Grassa, Sabena Gruber, Briana Hanratty, Elizabeth Huggins, Heather Johnston, Christopher Kenny, Melissa Larson, Andrew Manning, Ewelina Mieczkowska, Daniel Mott, Antonios Mourdoukoutas, Michael Obrycki, Stephen Perkins, Breanna Perso, Brian Pun, David Rinaldo, Mala Sachdev, Kevin Salvaggio, William Simons, Vincent Trapani, William Vobis, David Wallach, Ashley Westfall, Ashley Yevick, and Sivayoga Yokeeswaran.

Approximately 18% of the more than 1.8 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

Dariusz Adamczyk Named National Merit Commended Scholar

Congratulations to Lindenhurst High School senior Dariusz Adamczyk, who has been named a National Merit Commended Scholar. Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. These students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

According to Guidance Counselor Mathew Ward, "Dariusz is one of those truly exceptional people." Dariusz is involved in various clubs and participates on the Cross-Country and Track and Field teams.



(L-R) Lindenhurst High School Guidance Counselor Mathew Ward, Senior Dariusz Adamczyk, and Principal Daniel Giordano.

Former Rockette Kicks into Master Dance Class

Former Rockette Siobhan Santapaola taught Kristi Lyons' master dance class at Lindenhurst High School recently and advised students on various dance careers.

"A career in dance is extremely hard, filled with a lot of rejection," explained Mrs. Santapaola. "Dancing with the Rockettes was also one of the best experiences of my life."

Mrs. Santapaola started dancing at the age of two and began competition at ten. "I always knew I wanted to dance," she said. "I have a total passion for all kinds of dance." She began working as an assistant to the Rockettes as part of a work-study program in college. She learned the "style" and after three auditions, at the age of 21, she joined the exclusive group, dancing in the annual Christmas show for five years.

She also worked on a cruise ship for three months. She added "I got to see the world and dance." Mrs. Santapaola recently opened Art in Motion, a dance studio in Huntington. She teaches 21 classes, six days a week, including adult classes and Zumba. "I'm still learning the business side, but owning your own business is great," she said.

Mrs. Santapaola advised, "Remember you are performing at all times, especially at exits and entrances. Always keep a smile on your face."



Former Rockette Siobhan Santapaola teaches kickline moves to dance students.



Kristi Lyons students learn new dance steps from former Rockette Siobhan Santapaola.

Lindenhurst High School Students Support Breast Cancer Awareness

Groups of Lindenhurst High School students helped make all students knowledgeable about the devastating disease of breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) and Characters in Action (CIA) raised more than \$1,700 for the American Cancer Society through t-shirt, cake, flower, and ribbon sales. They also hosted a faculty Dress Pink Day. Twenty-two students participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. In addition, computer graphics students scanned pumpkins in the computer and "painted" them to raise money.

Thank you to teacher Cecilia Mattera and secretary Shirley Kennedy for all their help in coordinating many of the events and sales.



Lindenhurst High School students at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach.

Students Create Edible Cells

As part of a unique lesson, Lauren Wilbert's Living Environment classes at Lindenhurst High School created fun and edible science projects that represented the structure of cells. Students made a model of either a plant cell or an animal cell. A key/legend was required for each project.

In this activity, which was designed to reinforce the concepts of cell structures and functions, the students produced cell models from various food items. Each food item represented a specific part (organelle) of the cell. The edible cell project was developed for students to visualize cells as three-dimensional structures, since most student exposure to cell structure is gained through textbooks diagrams, which make it hard to portray the cells as multi-dimensional.

Many students in the third-period class used some form of cake mix as the basic cell. Various flavors of Jell-O, as well as a big chocolate chip cookie, were also used. Cell part toppings included marshmallows, Reese's Pieces, licorice and gum balls. Students voted on most accurate, most creative, best looking, and naturally, best tasting.



Lindenhurst High School students in Lauren Wilbert's class enjoyed the edible cell projects.

Lindenhurst Middle School

MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN *Encourages Students to Be Persistent*

Author Marc Tyler Nobleman visited Lindenhurst Middle School recently and spoke about his writing career. "I have written more than 70 books for children and many humor pieces for *Nickelodeon Magazine*. I'm also a cartoonist and my work has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes*," said Mr. Nobleman. He signed copies of his books while he was at the Middle School.



He advised students, "Be persistent, keep on doing something, keep trying, and don't be afraid of the rejection factor. Everyone gets rejected on a daily basis." He gave an example of how his work was accepted at *Nickelodeon Magazine* after he submitted 11 examples rather than the expected two, and he called the appropriate people every few months to follow up. "I loved doing it!" exclaimed Mr. Nobleman.

"Marc Tyler Nobleman's message to students is to be persistent and follow your passion. Everyone knows what rejection feels like, but successful people don't give up," explained English teacher Deb Gloor.

One of his most famous books, *Boys of Steel*, is the behind-the-scenes picture story of how the creators of Superman invented and published their "Man of Steel." He researched details that had never before been published.

Another book, *Vocabulary Cartoon of the Day*, offers a reproducible cartoon that helps children build their vocabulary. Each engaging and humorous cartoon comes with clear definitions and sentences. In another one of his works, *Vanished: True Stories of the Missing*, Mr. Nobleman intensely researched unusual stories of missing people.



Author and cartoonist Marc Tyler Nobleman speaks with Lindenhurst Middle School students.

Lindenhurst Middle School Supports Troops Overseas



Lindenhurst Middle School students with the packages of food and other items for our military troops overseas.

Thank you to Kelly Turner and Heather Lockland for organizing this year's Lindenhurst Middle School packages in support of military troops overseas. In coordination with the Social Studies Department, many of the sixth and seventh graders wrote letters and cards to wish our troops a Happy Thanksgiving. Also sent were books, playing cards and CDs. Food items included powdered drink mixes, teas, canned soups, crackers and homemade cookies.

Breakfast for Champions Begins Thirteenth Season

"This breakfast honors the children that come into school each day and smile. It is for the students who do their homework, who listen. You are Lindy Pride!" exclaimed Lindenhurst Middle School Principal Frank Naccarato.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Breakfast for Champions each month honors those students who always try their best and go "above and beyond." Every month, selected students are honored for their achievements with a breakfast at the Lindencrest Diner. Sponsored by the Lindenhurst Middle School Student Council, students, parents, teachers and administrators enjoy a full breakfast to recognize those students nominated by their teachers.

Congratulations to Nicholas Abbazio, Donald Bangs, Gabriela Betancourt, Arleen Delgado, Ari Espino, Jackie Farnham, Kira Indelicati, Sarah Infante, Jessica Longarello, Marissa Manno, Luca Matajy, Conor McGowan, Samantha Munsey and Justin Nicoletti.



November Breakfast for Champions with Lindenhurst Middle School Principal Frank Naccarato (left) and Program Coordinator Debbie Gloor (right).

Girls Volleyball Wins Class AA Long Island Championship

The Lindenhurst High School Varsity Girls Volleyball Bulldogs won the Class AA Long Island Championship game at C.W. Post, defeating the Massapequa Chiefs 25-21, 27-25, 20-25 and 26-24, to earn their second Long Island title. The team went on to compete in the New York State Class AA semifinal pool play at the Glens Falls Civic Center and went 3-3.

In the Long Island championship, Lindenhurst (17-1) rallied from down 24-22 in the final game, and Kayla Morgan served up the winner. The Bulldogs reached the state finals in 2008, but only three players on the current roster were part of that group. Alyssa Marchino had 10 kills and 6 digs, Emily Clemens had 26 assists and 8 digs, and Jenna Clemens had 13 digs and 8 kills. Lindenhurst took the first two games, but the Massapequa team (17-1) clawed back in Game 3, finishing on a 9-1 run.

The Bulldogs defeated Ward Melville to reach the Long Island Championship game. "This was an awesome match and is what good competition is all about," Bulldogs coach Kellie Block said. "We've had to fight before, but this is a comeback team."

"We had another outstanding performance by these girls and their coaches. Kudos to the parents and spectators who displayed incredible



The Lindenhurst High School Varsity Girls Volleyball team after their victory against Massapequa to win the Class AA Long Island Championship. (Photo courtesy of Edward Langone).

enthusiasm and sportsmanship," said Director of Athletics, Physical Education, and Health Anthony V. Amesti.

GENOA, VRANA AND ROEHRIG Sign National Letters of Intent

Lindenhurst High School baseball stars Alex Genoa, Rich Vrana and Mike Roehrig signed National Letters of Intent to attend Saint Thomas Aquinas College, Marist College, and State University at Stony Brook, respectively. Each contributed significantly to the Bulldog Baseball New York State Championship series.

Alex is a catcher who had an on-base percentage of .400 last season. "His arm and blocking skills are phenomenal, and he is a clutch hitter," commented Coach Michael Canobbio. Pitcher Rich Vrana was second team All-Long Island with a 9-0 record and a 0.98 earned run average (ERA). "Rich is a gifted left-handed pitcher. He is one of the best on Long Island," said the Coach, pointing out that Mike is a Gold Glove Award winner who had 33 runs batted in (RBI) last season. "No one outworks Mike. He is a tremendous all-around player."

"Coach Rich Rogers and I are thrilled for the boys and their families. They all have tremendous work ethics and serve as positive role models for the younger players," remembered Coach Canobbio.



Principal Daniel E. Giordano, baseball coaches Michael Canobbio and Rich Rogers, Coordinator of Athletics, Physical Education and Health Anthony V. Amesti, along with parents and grandparents, congratulate Alex Genoa, Rich Vrana and Mike Roehrig as they sign National Letters of Intent.

Girls Soccer Team Supports Kicks for Cancer

The Lindenhurst High School Varsity Girls Soccer team raised \$500 for the charity fundraiser Kicks for Cancer in memory of former Hauppauge High School student Courtney Tomkin, who lost her life to brain cancer at age 17.

Courtney was the Hauppauge girls' soccer team's biggest fan and attended almost every game to cheer them on. "She was passionate about soccer," explained Shannon Griffin, a social worker from Hauppauge High School. "Courtney always managed to smile throughout her illness. She taught people how to be resilient."

Ms. Griffin addressed the Lindenhurst team before a recent game to give the student athletes some background on Courtney and Kicks for Cancer. Kicks for Cancer supports a scholarship fund and various cancer researches, including breast cancer and children with cancer.

The Lindenhurst Girls Soccer team was one of more than 20 teams throughout Suffolk County who are participating in Kicks for Cancer. Team members wore pink tie-dye shirts, and the stands were decorated with pink and white balloons. The team also conducted a raffle to raise additional money during a recent home game.



The Lindenhurst High School Varsity Girls Soccer team raised money to support Kicks for Cancer.

Varsity Cross-Country Has Great Finish

Girls Cross-Country

The Girls Varsity Cross-Country team had a great finish to an outstanding season at the Town of Babylon 5K Invitational. The team defended its 2009 championship, led by Nicole Bermudez (21.36) and Bonnie Pisciotta (21.38). All seven of the varsity runners, including Maria Manno, Kristen DePalo, Gina Dorso, Merissa Happich and Victoria Quednau, earned medals for placing in the top 15 overall.

Lindenhurst continued its success at the Section XI Divisional Championship run at Sunken Meadow State Park. The girls were again led by Bonnie and Nicole, but the team's achievement that day was a result of Maria Manno's (24.01), Gina Dorso's (24.11) and Merissa Happich's (24.27) tough running. The team took third place with an average time of 23.36, and qualified for the County Championship.



The Lindenhurst High School Boys and Girls Cross-Country teams at the Babylon Bowl tournament.

Boys Cross-Country

Congratulations to the Boys Varsity Cross-Country team for winning the "Babylon Bowl" Championship. The meet took place at Belmont Lake State Park. This was the first time the boys' program ever won that meet, consisting of all teams from the Town of Babylon.

Brandon Ahl led the team to a second-place finish, followed by Rich Schimmel (3rd), Rob Festa (4th), Brenden Ruppel (5th), Kyle Crospey (8th), Andonio Moudokoutous (16th), and Darius Adamchuck (17th). On Tuesday October 26, the team finish 14th out of 50 Suffolk County schools at the Division Championships. Brandon Ahl earned All-Division honors by placing 12th.

LINDENHURST TEAMS WIN SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

Section XI released the Fall 2010 Outstanding Sportsmanship Team Award winners. Congratulations to:
Lindenhurst Varsity Boys Cross-Country (Coach George Smawley)
Lindenhurst Varsity Football (Coaches Nick Lombardo, Rick Caravaggio, Rich Rogers and Damon Sinicropi)
Lindenhurst Varsity Swimming and Diving (Coaches Diane Pollard, Thomas Cornelia and Brian Washington)

Three Lindenhurst coaches won 2010 "Coach of the Year" honors;
Debi Bonanduci (Girls Varsity Tennis)
George Smawley (Boys Varsity Cross-Country)
Allison McCourt (Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball)

"This recognition brings great honor to the district and is a direct result of the professionalism of our coaching staff and the outstanding conduct of our Lindenhurst student athletes," remarked Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health Anthony V. Amesti.