

THE BABYLON SCHOOL DISTRICT
50 RAILROAD AVENUE
BABYLON, NY 11702

Judy Anderson, *President*
Henry Brunjes, *Vice President*
Darrell J. Conway
Roger A. Katz
AnneMarie Martino
Thomas Melito
Catherine Vukovich

Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit
Superintendent of Schools

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 118
BABYLON, NY



****ECRWSS****
Residential Customer
Babylon, NY 11702

Babylon Students Score in Top Percentile

In December, Babylon High School students in Claire Reilly's College Accounting, College Marketing, and College Entrepreneurship classes participated in the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Fall 2008 National Financial Literacy Challenge, an initiative recommended by the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy.

The Challenge was taken by more than 75,000 high school students. Participants included students in rural areas, suburbs, and cities in this country, and in Department of Defense schools around the world.

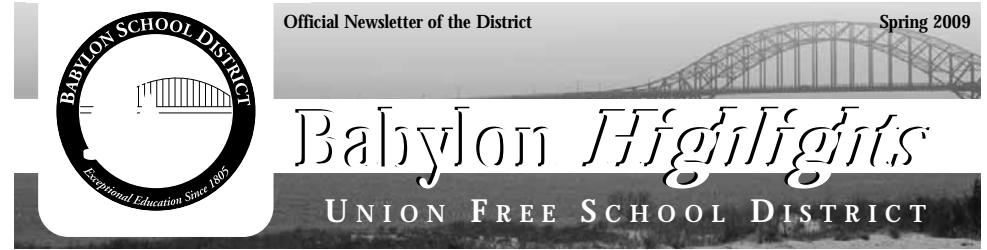
The district is proud to announce that 41 students scored in the top 25th percentile of students across the country!

Residents not yet registered to vote for the school budget and Board of Education elections may do so between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays when school is in session, at the District Office, 50 Railroad Avenue, up to and including May 14, 2009. To verify your registration status, please call the District Clerk at 893-7925.

May 19
School Budget & Trustee Vote
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
@ Grade School

To vote on the proposed 2009-2010 school budget and Board of Education election, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- A district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Registered to vote with either the school district or Suffolk County Board of Elections and have voted within the past four years.



School Security

Always looking to enhance and improve school security, the Babylon School District recently hosted a tabletop exercise event coordinated in tandem with the Suffolk County Police Department. Members of the Suffolk County Homeland Security division, Hostage Negotiation Unit, a Special Patrol Officer, and Emergency Services personnel visited with the Babylon administration to conduct a program called the School Incident Emergency Guidance Exercise - 'Siege'. "This was a great event for the district to participate in," stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit. "If everyone took only one thing away from the program I would say that it was beneficial...I have thought of a few new ideas as a result of this discussion and am eager to explore them."

Throughout the event, members of the building's administration, buildings and grounds department, and security department worked with the police officers to run through a simulated potential risk situation. The exercise detailed a school day during which an armed individual entered Babylon Junior-Senior High School and the events that took place following his arrival. During the simulation, the district officials explained what protocols they would put into place while the police officials provided some additional items to consider during this simulation. Addressing the crowd, Suffolk County Homeland Security Deputy Chief Mark White stated, "Time is so critical in a situation like this...every moment counts."

In addition to Babylon, several other Long Island School Districts were in attendance for the event, including neighboring districts located in the boundaries of the First Precinct. Babylon High School Principal Robert Visbal, Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Peter Daly, Head Security Guard Jim Wood, and Director of Facilities Steven Panno participated in a panel discussion during this event.



Babylon School District recently participated in a school safety tabletop exercise with members of law enforcement. The police officers are pictured here with members of the district's administrative team.

In order to better understand the ramifications that the current economic climate will have on the district and to provide a forum for individuals to voice their concerns, Babylon's administrative team hosted a legislative breakfast with New York State Senator Owen Johnson and New York State Assemblyman Phil Boyle. During the event, which was well attended by members of the district's leadership and unit teams, parent groups, and Board of Education members, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit asked the elected officials to share what they knew about the proposed stimulus package and the status of state aid.

"We are determined to do whatever we can to support our communities," Senator Johnson reassured the group. "The state is very focused on New York City these days...however, I assure you that I remain mindful



of my commitment of advocating for Long Island's fair share of funding for education. The stimulus package is a short-term fix to a problem...we need to come up with a solution to meet our long-term needs," added Assemblyman Boyle.

Also discussed during the meeting were the speculated limitations for applying the stimulus package to the school's budget, as well as much needed alternate funding for state mandates.

Board of Education:



Babylon *Highlights*

Enhancing

www.babylonschools.org

Save the Date

April 20
Board of Education Meeting
Adoption of Budget &
Property Tax Report Card
7:30 p.m. @ HS

April 28
Board of Education
Work/Study Meeting
7:30 p.m. BOCES Vote @ HS

May 11
Public Hearing on Proposed
School Budget/Board of
Education Meeting 7:30 p.m.
@ HS

May 14-15
Kindergarten Screening @ ES
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

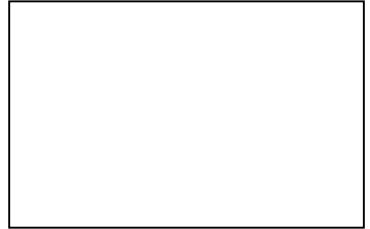
May 20-21
Kindergarten Screening @ ES
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

May 22-25
Schools Closed -
Memorial Day Break

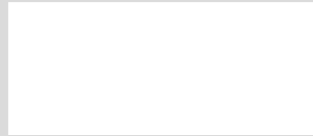
in National Competition

**ARE YOU REGISTERED
TO VOTE?**

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS



LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT BABYLON



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Babylon Junior-Senior High School science teacher Mary Beth Malone has been accepted into the 2009 Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy located at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Alabama. The academy is a training program for teachers to learn new and innovative techniques to educate their students about science and math. To date, 995 teachers from 34 countries and 49 states have already graduated from the program. Ms. Malone will join 272 teachers from 19 countries and 45 states this June and become a part of the program's Class of 2009.



During the program, Ms. Malone will participate in two simulated space shuttle missions and will also simulate walking on the moon and working in the frictionless environment of space in their astronaut simulator. Additionally, weather permitting, she will have the chance to spend an afternoon at Aviation Challenge, simulating what it would be like to land in the water with a parachute or be rescued from the water by a helicopter.

in Today's Youth

In response to the school's prevention needs assessment, the district recently hosted a series of workshops on destructive decisions. The program was conducted for students at Babylon Junior-Senior High School and included presentations by Bobby Petrocelli and Father Frank Pizzarelli.

Mr. Petrocelli spoke with the students about his life as a teacher/coach, who was inadvertently saved by the students who supported him after a drunk driver crashed into his house and killed his wife. During his talk he stated that approximately 1,000 students attended his wife's funeral and continued to be there for him through his own physical and emotional recovery. He interjected humor into his presentation as he encouraged the students to feel good about the choices they make in life.

Father Pizzarelli's workshop was a bit different, as he discussed his work at the Hope House in Port Jefferson and related a couple of personal experiences he'd had that ended in tragedy. One story that hit home with the students was about a graduation party in which alcohol was involved. At the end of the party, a mother had an argument with her son, he stormed off in his car, and had a fatal accident. His message was very moving and had the students captivated from the beginning. The students left feeling empowered to be the ones who effect change and examine their own behaviors.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit, Director of Guidance and School Counseling Barbara Restivo, and Drug and Alcohol Counselor Dennis McGovern are in the process of planning a Parenting for Prevention forum for parents on teenage drinking and drug use. The forum, which will be held on May 12, 2009, is planned to include a drug counselor, an agent from the DEA, the district's School Resource Officer, the school social worker, and a student who entered a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program. Community-related agencies will be represented as well. A flyer will be sent home with the details.

The budget development process is a comprehensive procedure that involves all of the school district's stakeholders. It is the district's goal to propose a budget for the 2009-2010 school year that not only preserves the integrity of its instructional and support programs, but also has the least impact on taxpayers.

Each year this task becomes increasingly difficult and this year is no exception. With the trying economic situation, overburdened taxpayers, huge state deficits, and rising unemployment rates, the district is facing an unprecedented budget season. These reasons coupled with the inadequate funds for public education (statistically Long Island educates 17% of the state's student population but only receives 13% of the funding) and the unforeseen future of state aid, Babylon's administrators have been forced to scrupulously examine each line of the budget in order to identify potential cost-saving opportunities.

Throughout the development process to date, the Board of Education and administration have identified several budget goals.

Detailed below are those goals and a few highlights about the proposed budget.

2009-2010 Budget Goals

- Sustain important programs
- Keep students learning at competitive levels
- Meet students' diverse learning needs
- Maintain a safe and healthy learning environment
- Keep taxes as low as possible
- Develop a budget with an eye toward the future

2009-2010 Proposed Budget

- Maintains all current instructional and co-curricular programs
- Maintains instructional supplies and equipment at current year levels
- Continues maintenance projects at current levels
- Increases appropriation for security
- Increases appropriation for instructional technology

Panther Pride Abounds

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER ATHLETIC SEASON

Babylon High School student-athletes had a great winter season. In addition to successful athletic seasons on the playing field, many of the 2008-2009 winter teams were honored for their commitment to academics by winning the Scholar-Athlete Team Award. Below is a brief highlight of the winter season. Congratulations to all of the athletes and their coaches for a wonderful season!

- League VII - 4th Place
- Section XI - 2nd Place
- All-League: James Pate, Keith Smith
- All-County: James Pate
- All-County Academics: Justin Maharana
- League VII - 4th Place
- Scholar-Athlete Team Award
- All-League: Emily Wardell, Alyssa Mayo, MacKenzie Vickers
- All-County Academic: Liz Jedrlinic, Kelly Woodard
- Scholar-Athlete Team Award
- Scholar-Athlete Team Award
- Section XI Division II Champions
- Scholar-Athlete Team Award
- All-County: Colin Coffey - 1st Place, Satchel Holder - 1st Place, Drew Allagio - 1st Place, Greg Griffo - 1st Place, Matt LosKamp - 1st Place, Sean Melow - 1st Place, Sean Kelly - 2nd Place, Frank Mankiewicz - 2nd Place, Nick Brennan - 2nd Place, Joe Mankiewicz - 3rd Place, Rodearrick Holder - 3rd Place, Jose Feliciano - 3rd Place, Dan McHugh - 4th Place, Andrew Hurst - 4th Place, Brian LosKamp - 4th Place, Andy Perez - 4th Place



A Message From Your

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Community Members,

In the midst of our students' accomplishments, whether academic, athletic, social or in the realm of the arts, the uncertain economy continues to guide our many decisions. This year the Board of Education has chosen to make decisions that are purely student-centered in their budget development process. And for this they should be commended. While our programs will remain intact you will vote on the lowest budget-to-budget increase we have seen in 26 years and the lowest tax rate increase we have seen in 17 years. This was all done prior to the publication of the New York State budget.

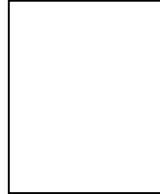
I would like to caution you, however, as you try to decipher current information related to state aid allocations. These reports will indicate an increase in the aid intended for Babylon Schools but the increase is not necessarily what it seems to be. For the first time in memory, the state has included federal aid in their calculations. At this point in time it appears that those monies are intended only for the adoption of new programs that do not currently exist in the district. While it may appear tempting to build new programs with this aid, those monies needed to continue the new program will disappear in two years. Therefore, it may not be prudent to begin a new program that will not be sustainable in the future without taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, it also appears the governor believes that shortfalls will likely occur mid-year and we could expect aid cuts in late 2009 or early 2010.

I had reported in last month's message that we should be receiving word from the New York State Comptroller's Office about the status of the audit that was completed in February. It is now April and we have not yet received our report. We will share their findings with you as soon as we can.

And as we head into the final quarter of the school year, we wish you a happy spring. We look forward to seeing you at the myriad of events that are planned throughout the remainder of the school year.

Till next time,
Ellen Best-Lairmit

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND



Effecting Change

Budget Planning Update



Varsity Boys Basketball

Varsity Wrestling

Varsity Boys Winter Track

Varsity Girls Winter Track

Varsity Girls Basketball

Joining Together to Combat Cancer

The Babylon School District's coaching staff teamed up with the national Coaches vs. Cancer campaign, a movement coordinated between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). The program empowers basketball coaches, their teams, and local communities to make a difference in the fight against cancer by increasing cancer awareness and promoting healthy living through year-round awareness efforts, fundraising activities, and advocacy programs.

Through their participation in this program, Babylon has raised more than \$1,080 with a jeans day for the staff, pass-the-hat challenge during a doubleheader game, and help from the school's foreign language and athletic clubs.

Coaches vs. Cancer was started in 1993 and transformed into a nationwide effort to unite coaches across the country in the common mission to provide help and hope to all people facing cancer. To date, more than 600 Division I, II, and III college and high school coaches participate in the program annually, and nearly \$40 million has been raised.



100th Day



Babylon Elementary School students recently celebrated a milestone in their educational journey through the Babylon School District – the 100th day of school. Throughout the day on Tuesday, February 24th, the students were engaged in a variety of activities, including counting to 100, crafting necklaces using 100 pieces of cereal, and creating hats that spell out 100. Additionally, prior to the big day, the students developed projects using poster boards and 100 of their favorite items.

Babylon DECA Succeeds Again!

The Babylon School District congratulates the 100 Babylon High School students who entered the Suffolk County DECA Competition. These business-savvy students competed against more than 1,200 high school students from across the county and triumphed over their peers. Thirty-nine Babylon students were awarded trophies in their events and seven students were commended as honorable mention winners. Special congratulations to the following:

Jaycee Angello
Jourdan Brown
Claire Buser
Max Bzydk
Jesse Carbonaro
Brendan Cassidy
Emily Church
Christine Desiderio
Mike DiSanti
Pamela Dupre
Phylicia Frasson
MacKenzie Grant
Emily Halliday
Grace Hoffman
Lloyd Ippolito
Michelle Janaszak

Liz Jedrlinic
Patrick Johnsen
Donovan Longo
Matt Loskamp
Steve Loudon
Mike Lum
Justin Maharana
Adam Marrone
Taylor Middleton
Jamie Mott
Harry Newman
Noelle Rogers
Jason Roman
Jessica Sasuk
Taylor Schwenker
Kyle Sherwood
Ian Stewart

Jade Tantillo
Carly Tribby
Max Watt
Jessica Weber
Kyle Yantz
Erica Zigon

Christian Amelia
Brian Connolly
Charlie Gambino
Katie Greene
Chelsea Magro
Andrea Menchini
Erin Morvay



for the

In celebration of the 100th Day of School, the second graders at Babylon Elementary School teamed together with the goal to collect 100 cans of food items per class. As a result of the school's generosity, the grade-level collected more than 410 non-perishable canned items! The collected items were donated to local food pantries across Long Island.



STUDENTS SHARE with Village

Three talented Babylon High School student-artists have been selected to work in partnership with the Babylon Village Arts Council (BVAC) in 2009. These students are being sponsored by the organization to participate in the Art in the Park Show this May. The council is supplying the students with art supplies, which they are to use to create approximately 10 pieces of artwork to be displayed at the show.

A DAY IN THE

Several Babylon High School students participated in a unique learning opportunity, a chance to get up-close, on-the-job experience in fields such as medicine, teaching, and pet wellness.

A group of nine Babylon High School students participated in the Long Island Groundhog Shadow Day this February, a program that was coordinated by Director of Guidance/School Counseling Barbara Restivo. Through their participation in the event, students were provided with a unique opportunity to explore a chosen career path and the work world. Students shadowed a mentor as he or she went through a typical day on the job.

Included in the professionals that the students shadowed was Babylon Elementary School Principal Dana Spincola and teachers Jenn Monteleone, Kathy Reynolds, and Barbara Krucher. Additionally, students were also placed with out-of-district professionals at Good Samaritan Hospital, as well as a Pet Wellness Center and a Physical Therapy office in Babylon Village.

Groundhog Shadow Day proved to be an insightful and profound experience for the Babylon students, who are now better prepared for the world that awaits them after high school.

STUDENTS RECEIVE A VISIT

Can you imagine what life would be like as a quadriplegic? Babylon Memorial Grade School students got a glimpse into the world of the physically-challenged when motivational quadriplegic speaker Brooke Ellison visited to share the inspirational story of how she overcame the limitations of her disability, and the opportunities and challenges for handicapped people.

On Brooke's first day of seventh grade a car struck her while she walked home from school. The accident left her paralyzed from the neck down but did not paralyze her spirit.

"If things always stayed the same we wouldn't have the chance to become better, smarter people," Brooke stated to the crowded gymnasium. "Never let anyone tell you that you can't, because you can and if you really want to you will."

Prior to Brooke's visit, fifth and sixth-grade students viewed the movie *The Brooke Ellison Story: One Mother, One Daughter, One Journey*, which was directed by the late Christopher Reeve. In addition to hearing Brooke's inspiring story, the students also had the opportunity to ask Brooke questions about her life and present her with poems and pictures they had made for her.

Also, members of the school's sixth-grade band played a song called *Of Honor and Glory*, and sixth graders Lauren Bury, Brendan Laing, Jessica Roberts, and Bridgette Rohl from Linda Mielenhausen's art class created an artistic and inspirational banner, which hung in the gymnasium.



instructs students not only about fashion, but also how to construct their own pieces.

Under the direction of teacher Cindy Theiss and with the help of retired art teacher and community volunteer Celeste Topazio, the students researched body types, selected patterns and modified them to their styles, and chose fabrics in order to design and construct clothing pieces that suited their sense of fashion and figure. The proud young designers then modeled their final creations during a class fashion show that was attended by several of the building's teachers and administrators.

"A lot of the students' creations were inspired by the 1960s," stated Ms. Theiss. "They were able to adapt the patterns and create something completely inspired. Nothing came out exactly like the pattern...it was a great demonstration of the class's creativity and originality."



Good Time



Fashion was practically jumping off the pages of *Vogue* magazine as twelve Babylon High School eleventh- and twelfth-grade students put their creativity to the test in the school's new Fashion Construction Class. This half-year class, which is a sequel to the school's Fashion Merchandising Class,



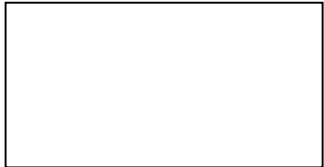
Gazebo Projects Peaks Student Interest

Students at Babylon Junior-Senior High School now have an outdoor learning and study environment to visit on warm school days. Thanks to the help of the school's practical arts department and as a part of the school's courtyard restoration project, students in Brain Katz's Technology Education Manufacturing and Construction course constructed a 12'x12' gazebo.

"The practical arts department strives to give students hands-on experiences relating to real-world situations and problems," stated Mr. Katz. "Through their work on this project, the students learned about construction concepts, safe work practices, and teamwork."

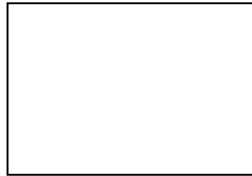


Celebrating the



100 CANS

100TH DAY

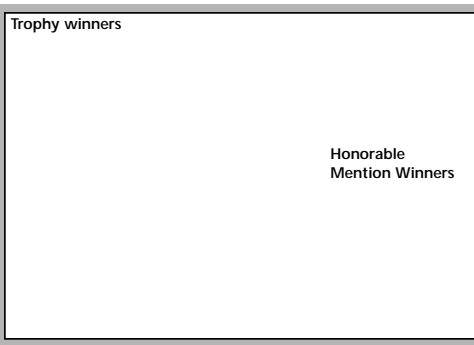


Art Talents

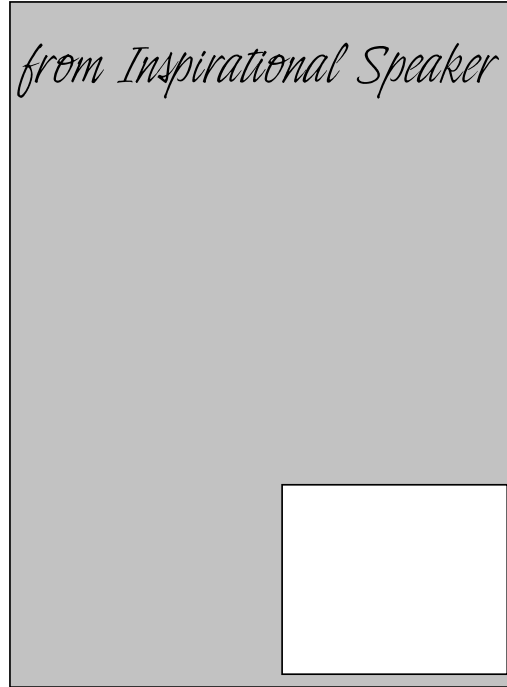


Trophy winners

Honorable
Mention Winners



LIFE



from Inspirational Speaker

A Beary

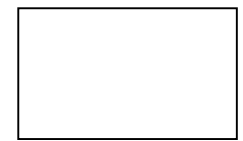
Babylon Elementary School students not only learned about the history behind teddy bears but also how to draw one when author and illustrator Kathleen Bart visited the school to present a program called "A Tale of Two Teddies, The History of the Teddy Bear."

During the program Ms. Bart spoke about how the teddy bear came to be, as based on her book "A Tale of Two Teddies," and how there were, in fact, two different kinds of teddy bears created more than 100 years ago – one in Brooklyn, New York and the other in Germany. Included in the story was how the American bear was named after President Teddy Roosevelt.

Ms. Bart presented both sides of the argument over which bear was created first with a lively narrative and poster-sized illustrations from her book. At the end of the program, the students had the chance to vote on which they believed to be the first and learn how to draw their own teddy bears.



Walking the Runway



As a kickoff to the school's Parents as Reading Partners Read-a-Thon, members of Babylon Memorial Grade School showcased their creative acting skills and participated in a Readers' Theatre Ensemble. The teachers, staff, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit, who worked under the guidance of school librarian Grace Kiernan, performed skits from the nonfiction book called *Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions and How They Came to Be* by Charlotte Jones.

Throughout the event, the teacher-actors dressed in costumes and shared how inventions like cheese, chocolate chip cookies, doughnut holes, maple syrup, potato chips, and Ivory soap were made.

This year's PARP program was themed Imagine This, Create That. Each week, the students had the opportunity to read nonfiction, realistic fiction, mystery, fantasy, adventure, science fiction, biography, animal fiction, sports fiction, and many other genres to add to their reading repertoires. Since reading inspires ideas and inventiveness, students also had the option of creating or inventing something that relates to what they are reading.



Professional Shares Tips for

The Babylon High School Intro to Journalism class received some inside tips about succeeding in the professional world of writing when *Newsday* sportswriter Kimberley Martin visited the school. The course, which is new this year, is scheduled for eleventh and twelfth-grade students and taught by Jim Schappert.

During her visit, Ms. Martin spoke with the students about how she got her start in journalism, the climate of the field, paper vs. Internet reporting, and techniques for fact-finding when writing a story. The students enjoyed receiving her perspective on the field and asked a few insightful questions about the occupation.

"Always do what makes you happy," stated Ms. Martin, who prior to breaking into the journalism field worked at an investment management firm in Midtown Manhattan. "I always liked being around sports and being creative...eventually I found a way to do both things together."

Ms. Martin has worked at *Newsday* since November 2007.



4



FOR ORPHANS

Eight members of the Babylon High School National Art Society created Memory Portraits for children from Burma as part of the nationally run Memory Project coordinated out of Wisconsin. As part of their participation in the project, the students create portraits for children who are orphaned around the world. Once completed, the projects are delivered to the children and the artists receive a photograph of them with their new artwork.

This is the third year that the school has participated in the project and the Honor Society's fifth set of portraits. A job well done is extended to those students who participated:

Angelica Diaz	Julianne Nugent
Elena Castaneda	Ariel Rivera
Emily Halliday	Megan Leininger
Emily Wardell	Casey Owens

to Life

After reading J.D. Salinger's famous novel *Catcher in the Rye*, students in James Schappert's tenth-grade English class and Katie McGrorty's ninth-grade English class at Babylon High School attended a field trip to Central Park in New York City. The trip was designed to bring the novel to life by following the protagonist, Holden Caulfield's, shoes as the students had the chance to visit all the places in the park that had meaning to him and consequently symbolic meaning for the story.

"This trip has been something that I wanted to do for a few years and think it really helped the students understand the themes of this book by being able to see firsthand the places that helped to shape J.D. Salinger's famous character," stated Mr. Schappert. "We also learned from our tour guide about the celebrated history of Central Park."



Students in James Schappert's tenth-grade English class and Katie McGrorty's ninth-grade English class at Babylon High School took a tour of Central Park in New York City as a culminating activity to their study on J.D. Salinger's famous novel, *Catcher in the Rye*. The two classes are pictured here holding copies of the book.

Students Inducted into

As a result of their tremendous dedication to the area of business studies, 23 Babylon High School students have been inducted into the school's chapter of the National Business Honor Society this winter.

These students exhibited outstanding academic achievement in their business courses, as well as their other academic subjects. Induction into this prestigious society also recognizes that the students have exhibited excellent character and service characteristics.

Congratulations to the following inductees:

Christian Amelia	Steve Loudon
Jaycee Angello	Justin Maharana
Claire Buser	Andrea Menchini
Kate Calabrese	Erin Morvay
Michael DiSanti	Jamie Mott
Kieran Donnelly	Anthony Pisciotta
Will Dupre	Katie Pisciotta
James Ferri	John Sutherland
Trevor Fudim	Brian Swanson
Charlie Gambino	Brianna Watt
Heather Glenday	Alexa Wylie
Andrew Hurst	

on Display

In an original play entitled "The Adventure of the Little Fish Who Couldn't Read," which was written and directed by eighteen ninth through twelfth-grade students from Lisa Drance's Babylon High School Theater Class, fishes did more than just swim – they also attended school and enjoyed reading books. The students put their theatrical skills to the test and shared the comedic story with the students at Babylon Elementary School during an afternoon performance.

"The students did a great job," stated Ms. Drance. "They really took ownership of the play...after all that's what the class is all about."

In addition to writing and directing the play, the students were also responsible for staging the performance, acting in the production, and preparing the costumes and props.



Students at Babylon Elementary and Babylon Memorial Grade School opened their hearts this February and created heartfelt Valentine's Day

cards for a family friend of Elementary Principal Dana Spincola who is serving as an Army helicopter pilot in Iraq. More than 200 cards were crafted by the schools' students, many of who made their cards during buddies time with their partners, for Steven Gabrielli.

"It was really remarkable how many cards were made," stated Ms. Spincola. "I was so overwhelmed by the response. So many people pitch together during the December holidays and send packages to our troops...it is important to thank them for all they do all year long."

The cards were sent to Mr. Gabrielli just in time for Valentine's Day and he was glad to share the warm wishes with some of his fellow pilots. The Elementary School plans to give Mr. Gabrielli a happy homecoming during their Flag Day celebration this June.



As a part of the school's celebration of Parents As Reading Partners (PARP), several of the district's administrators volunteered to share their love for reading with the students at Babylon Elementary School and become guest readers for the morning. The special readers included Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit, Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Peter Daly, Administrator for Curriculum and Instruction Daniel D'Amico, Coordinator of Assessment Data, Learning, and Technology Carole Polney-Marinello, and Grade School Principal Eric Freidman. Each of the books the readers shared followed this year's PARP theme of "Dive Into Reading."



5

ARITHMETICKLES *Comes to Babylon*

The students at Babylon Elementary School were given an opportunity to get out of the classroom and learn math in a unique and fun way. The students were excited by math during a visit with Arithmetickles, an interactive mathematical program by the Children's Theater Center of New Jersey.

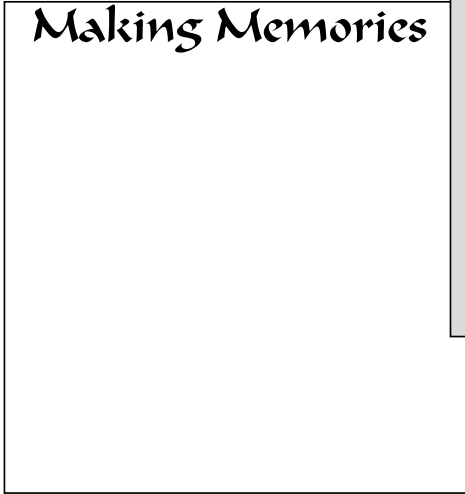
The program was conducted in an age-appropriate format, which included a variety of games, puzzles, and storytelling. Basic math concepts such as adding, subtracting, counting, and shape identification were reinforced through a variety of creative games and activities, including identifying odd and even numbers, shape recognition, number relationships, and pattern identification.



Kicking Off a Love for Reading



Making Memories



Business Honor Society



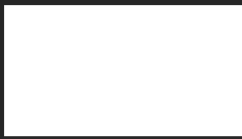
Theatrical Talents



Valentines for Local Army Pilot



Journalism Success



Catcher Comes



DIVING INTO READING

