

The West Hempstead

Educator

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Summer 2008

Thanks for a successful school year...



Dear Community Members,

As the productive 2007/08 school year concludes, I look back with satisfaction at the significant steps our district has taken to improve instruction and learning.

The most important of these may be the work of the District Strategic Planning Council which consists of administrators, teachers, students, parents and community members who worked from February through May discussing learning in West Hempstead. At the June 17 Board of Education meeting, they recommended four action plans for review, suggestions and comments in

the following areas: curriculum alignment/development and assessment usage; professional development; educational technology; and community relations. I hope you will want to learn more by visiting the district Web site at: www.whufsd.com (click on Strategic Planning Council).

We look forward to a number of learning enhancements during the 2008/09 school year, including additional reading services and special education courses, a Spanish foreign language program for grades K-2, better use of data analysis to identify curriculum needs and more technology hardware for student use.

Furthermore, we intend to improve our communication with all residents by continuing to upgrade the district Web site and utilizing the Connect Ed telephone message program when necessary. We plan to initiate a district e-mail listserv as another avenue to communicate with you.

Throughout the summer, in addition to the normal summer maintenance of cleaning, stripping/waxing floors and repairs, the district will also be engaging in projects and upgrades such as: adding an outside walkway at George Washington School, upgrading exit doors, paving/patching the WHMS parking lot, enhancing security capabilities, carpeting the secondary school libraries and enhancing auditorium lighting at WHHS.

We are grateful to the community for their support of the 2008/09 budget, which will make all of this possible.

Finally, thanks to all of you for your support throughout my initial year as Superintendent of Schools. I have been welcomed with open arms and made to feel at home! It has been a wonderful experience and I look forward to working with all of you in the fall.

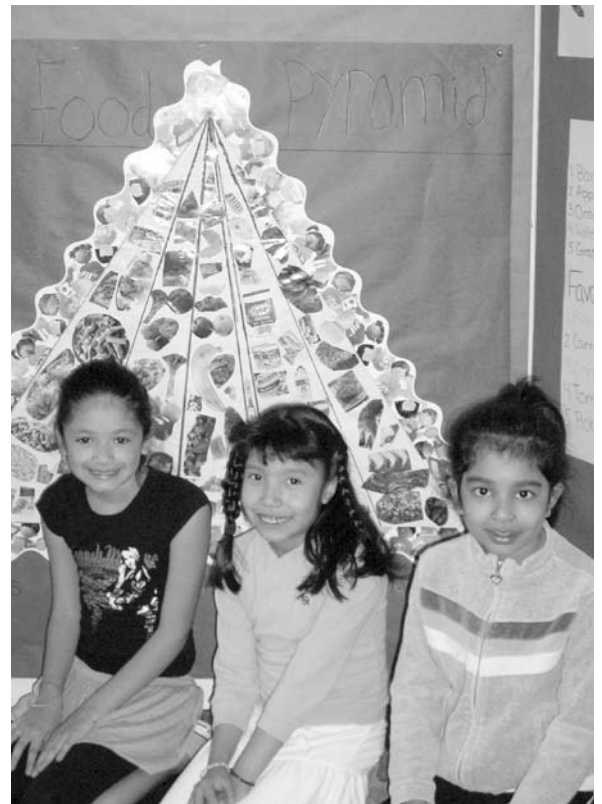
Sincerely,

John J. Hogan
Superintendent of Schools

At year's end...



The children in the kindergarten class of 2008 visited the school they'll be attending in September, George Washington (pictured above).



George Washington Elementary School students prepared for summer with "homework assignments" for fun family activities and healthy eating.

WH science students score

High school and middle school students in West Hempstead's Science Research Program amassed numerous honors over the past few months, some of them firsts for the district.

Twenty students from WHHS and WHMS earned awards at the Long Island Science Congress (LISC). Four of them — more than ever before — won top prizes at the LISC and were honored at a special regional ceremony. A middle school student represented Long Island as a finalist in the New York State Science Congress in Albany — another WH first.

A high school research student was honored with the prestigious Ricoh Sustainable Development Award for her research on estrogens found in Long Island ground water, and her presentation to scientists at the Intel-sponsored Long Island Science and Engineering Fair. Another student researcher received the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award.

The scientific research of two West Hempstead students was accepted in the national Intel Science Competition and the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair. Eight young researchers participated in the Molloy College Science Fair, and two students competed in the Adelphi University Science Olympiad sponsored by the American Chemical Society.

"We are so proud of our student scientists and their teachers," said Superintendent John J. Hogan. "West Hempstead's science research program and curriculum are stronger than ever, and we are committed to continuing that progress."

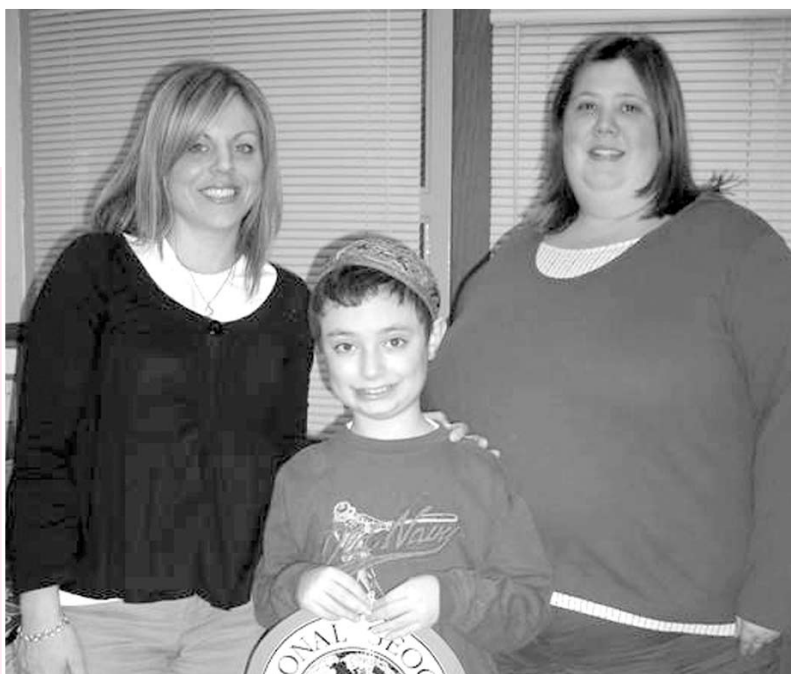


Science researchers from the West Hempstead High School and Middle School, with their teachers, were recognized with many awards this spring.

Cornwell fourth-grade student a state geography finalist

Cornwell Avenue School fourth-grader, Joseph Schneider, qualified as a New York State semi-finalist in the 2008 National Geographic Bee, held in Albany and open to students in grades 4-8.

In January, Joseph competed in the building-level competition, earning the title of school champion. This qualified him to proceed to the next level, a 72-question multiple-choice test. The top 100 scorers from across New York State competed in the finals for the chance to become state champion.



State spelling bee semi-finalist Joseph Schneider is congratulated by teachers Mrs. Danielle Napolitano, left, and Ms. Theresa Moore.

Strategic Plan approved

In June, the West Hempstead Board of Education approved the recommendations of the 57-member strategic planning council. Those recommendations and the full strategic plan are posted on the district Web site. Visit www.whufsd.com and click on "Strategic Planning Council" to learn more about the plan.

Third Relay for Life raises \$70,000

West Hempstead's moving and meaningful Relay for Life drew hundreds of participants of all ages to the high school track in June for the third annual fundraiser to benefit the American Cancer Society. Initiated by two seniors, Sarah Kupferberg and Camille Emma, the team walking event has become a treasured community tradition.

At 2008's opening ceremonies, speakers told of their own experiences or those of friends or relatives who faced cancer.

Lit candles lined the track at dusk and the strains of a lone bagpiper accompanied the procession. A "Fight Back" ceremony featuring team banners and messages from chairperson Dena Kharoufa and others finished the memorable occasion—and what better way to fight back than with the \$70,000 raised by the West Hempstead community?



Teams displayed their banners as they walked the WHHS track during the 2008 Relay for Life.

Community Scholarship Awards

(continued)

New York State Academic Excellence Awards

Kimberly Chipetine

Seth Ditmer

Ailin Lian

Tara Meggett

Meghna Patel

Timothy Trezza

Wan Hua Xie

Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union Making a Difference Scholarship

Seth Ditmer

Service Scholarship in Memory of Dusty Orlando

Matthew Orlando

SEPTA Awards Highest Achievement

Liana Zartun

Most Effort

Patrick Nagin

Most Improved

Aaron Hudson

Vocational Award

Brian Matier, Eric Schwartz

West Hempstead Rotary Club Student of the Year Award

Katherine McAvoy

Key Club Service Award West Hempstead Kiwanis

Dena Kharoufa

James Varvaro

Island Park Kiwanis

Gabrielle Fuchs

Ira Walter Memorial Scholarship

Michael McGraw

Janice Ricci Memorial Scholarship

Kristin Curtis

Joshua L. Brandon Memorial Scholarship

Kimberly Kuhnert

James and Ethel Barry Memorial Scholarship

Jose Rivera

Corey Jill Rovin Scholarship

Nicole DeVito

Krista Schuelein Memorial Scholarship

Timothy Trezza

West Hempstead Lions Club Community Scholarship

Timothy Trezza

West Hempstead Health Scholarship

Leila Memet

Avanti Society Scholarship

Michael Bonilla

Order Sons of Italy Scholarship

Alex Pozin

Remember to visit our Web site at www.whufsd.com

The West Hempstead
EDUCATOR

West Hempstead Union Free School District
252 Chestnut Street
West Hempstead, New York 11552

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Photos by Steve Orlando

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Congratulations

Name	College/Military/Employment	Name	College/Military/Employment
Amanda Abarno	Long Island School Of Business	Jenna D'Alessandro	New York Institute of Technology
Johan Acevedo	Nassau Community College	Anthony DeCicco	Molloy College
Melissa Adames	SUNY F.I.T.	Joseph Deguire	Employment
Nestor Aguiar	Nassau Community College	Asheley Denis	Adelphi University
Cheyenne Ainsworth	Nassau Community College	Edward Detweiler	Molloy College
Safiya Alam	St. John's University	Nicole Devito	Albany College of Pharmacy
Felipe Alcantara	Molloy College	Peter Diakovasilis	Nassau Community College
Anthony Alcindor	Nassau Community College	Arelie Diaz	United State Marines
Stephanie Amit	New York Institute of Technology	Francisco Diaz	Nassau Community College
Joseph Amitrano	Nassau Community College	Melinda DiGiovanna	SUNY New Paltz
Erin Anderson	Mitchell College (CT)	Seth Ditmer	New York University
Melanie Anderson	Paul Smith College	Phillip Doble	Employment
Eileen Apdiroglu	CUNY Queens College	Brian Donohue	SUNY New Paltz
Emmanuel Artilles	Nassau Community College	Jessica Ducles	Nassau Community College
Andrew Ayala	York College (PA)	Ezgi Dumen	Florida Community College
Nelly Ayala	Nassau Community College	Joseph Erdman	Employment
Jennifer Banks	Rider University (NJ)	Michael Falconer	United State Marines
Victor Barrera	Nassau Community College	Ligia Ferreira	Pace University
Joseph Barriga	Nassau Community College	Shawn Finneran	Dutchess Community College
Nicole Basso	Nassau Community College	Roberto Flores	Divers' Academy for Underwater Welding
Ryan Beard	Nassau Community College	Dominique Frangiamone	Employment
Amanda Bellafiore	Queensborough Community College	Gabrielle Fuchs	SUNY Purchase
Sakina Benkhokha	Nassau Community College	Yuriko Fuentes	Nassau Community College
Alexzandria Bernard	Employment	Justin Fulton	Nassau Community College
Thomas Bertone	Employment	Jeffrey Gonzalez	Nassau Community College
Kiara Bethune	Nassau Community College	Matthew Gonzalez	Nassau Community College
Govinda Bhagwandin	Employment	Stephen Gonzalez	Employment
Annamarie Biscardi	Employment	Matthew Greiner	Adelphi University
Anthony Bitetto	Nassau Community College	Sean Grossman	Nassau Community College
Jessica Bonilla	Nassau Community College	Gina Gullo	Nassau Community College
Michael Bonilla	New York Institute of Technology	Daniel Hansen	Nassau Community College
Nancy Bonilla	Nassau Community College	Laura Hayden	Nassau Community College
Matthew Bosch	Adelphi University	Michele Hemberger	Nassau Community College
Monique Brown	Nassau Community College	Dana Henderson	Nassau Community College
Jasmin Bula	Nassau Community College	Christopher Herbst	Nassau Community College
Kristina Bula	Nassau Community College	Timothy Hickey	SUNY Farmingdale
Crystal Cagno	Nassau Community College	Zachary Hill	Nassau Community College
Heather Cagno	SUNY Buffalo University	Jena Hockenjos	Nassau Community College
Christopher Callanan	Nassau Community College	Shatavia Holmes	Nassau Community College
Kamar Campbell	Nassau Community College	Michelle Holodar	Nassau Community College
Philip Capra	Nassau Community College	Aaron Hudson	Nassau BOCES
Deja Cartolano	Nassau Community College	Nicole Ingargiola	Employment
Jillian Carucci	Rider University (NJ)	Edward Irizarry	Employment
Samantha Casper	Nassau Community College	Justin Isahak	Career Institute of Health & Technology
Steven Cecere	Nassau Community College	Georges Israel	SUNY Stony Brook
Jorge Cespedes	Nassau Community College	Brian Jacobs	Hofstra University
Jessica Chacche	Nassau Community College	Karim Jaghab	St. John's University
Claire Chadderton	Nassau Community College	Patricia Jean-Charles	Rutgers University (NJ)
Jose Chavarry	Manhattan College	Akaz John	New York Institute of Technology
James Cheu	St. John's University	Dana Jones	Nassau Community College
Kimberly Chipetine	Brown University (RI)	Michael Kabat	Nassau Community College
Eric Chou	Nassau Community College	Aysenur Kececi	Nassau Community College
Ignatia Christodoulou	SUNY F.I.T.	Ashley Keenan	Nassau Community College
Arturo Cochero	Nassau Community College	Lauren Kelly	Nassau Community College
Anthony Coker	New York Institute of Technology	Dena Kharoufa	Nassau Community College
John Comuniello	Nassau Community College	Lamisha King	Molloy College
Dean Corigliano	Dowling College	Jenna Klein	Nassau Community College
Jamila Cornick	St. John's University	Kimberly Kuhnert	CUNY Queens College
Annabelle Cruz	Nassau Community College	Charles Laine	Employment
Joseph Cruz	Nassau Community College	Steven Lane	Nassau Community College
Kristin Curtis	University of Rhode Island	Philippe Langlois	Nassau Community College
Joseph Cutler	Queensborough Community College	Narah Latortue	University of North Carolina Charlotte

s, Class of 2008

Name	College/Military/Employment	Name	College/Military/Employment
Libo Li	Rice University (TX)	Casey Ann Robertson	Nassau Community College
Ailin Lian	Adelphi Unviersity	Eric Rodriguez	Nassau Community College
Brittany Lima	Nassau Community College	Fabian Rodriguez	Johnson & Wales University (RI)
Nina Liotta	Nassau Community College	Veronica Rodriguez	Nassau Community College
Giuliana Lopresti	St. John's University	Vincent Rodriguez	Nassau Community College
Erika Lucero	Nassau Community College	Marlene Rosen	SUNY Binghamton
Jhojan Macario	Nassau Community College	Amanda Rotondi	SUNY Cobleskill
Lyle Mackston	Pace University	Samantha Roy	Hunter ITT
Edward Madden	SUNY New Paltz	Estefani Salcedo	Nassau Community College
Natalie Madray	St. John's University	Kristyn Sandberg	University of Georgia
Keyry Maldonado	Nassau Community College	Andres Santos	Nassau Community College
Mario Marsh	Nassau Community College	Stephen Saravia	CUNY Queens College
Herbert Martinez	Nassau Community College	Kristy Sariego	Nassau Community College
Taylor Martini	Long Island University - C.W. Post Campus	Andrew Sarrapede	Employment
Brian Matier	VESID (Retail Services)	Christopher Scheel	Nassau Community College
Heather Mauro	Nassau Community College	Samantha Schneider	Nassau Community College
Elizabeth Mazzarella	Iona College	Eric Schwartz	VESID (Retail Services)
Katherine McAvoy	Fordham University	Joseph Scorgia	Employment
Melquan McCants	Nassau Community College	Caitlin Scully	CUNY Hunter College
Michael McGraw	VESID (Auto Services)	David Sczesnak	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Tara Meggett	SUNY Stony Brook	Elizabeth Sczesnak	McGill University (Montreal, Canada)
Elba Mejia	Nassau Community College	Mariana Serrano	CUNY
Jose Mejia	SUNY Albany	Douglas Sheeler	Nassau Community College
Lizet Melendez	Nassau Community College	Benjamin Sherman	Adelphi University
John Melgar	SUNY Stony Brook	Keira Smith	SUNY Delhi
Leila Memet	Molloy College	Nicole Sohan	Suffolk Community College
John Mendicino	Nassau Community College	Marianna Solorza	Johnson & Wales University (RI)
Sandra Messiha	St. John's University	Vasilis Stassinopoulos	Nassau Community College
Anthony Mongelluzzo	Adelphi University	Sarah Anne Sullivan	Lafayette College (PA)
Camille Morales	New York College of Health Professionals	Brittney Swanson	Marist College
Ismael Morales	Nassau Community College	Tinisha Symister	Dowling College
Edward Moran	Nassau Community College	Josselyn Teodoro	Nassau Community College
George Moscarelle	Nassau Community College	Richard Theodule	Nassau Community College
Seponono Motloenya	Johnson & Wales University (RI)	Ervin Thompson	Nassau Community College
Patrick Nagin	Nassau Community College	Jessica Torres	CUNY Queens College
Kerstin Naudus	Nassau Community College	Joanna Torres	St. John's University
Naquan New	Blue Field State University (WV)	Timothy Trezza	St. John's University
Lin Lee Ochoa	New York College of Health Professionals	Kimberly Trier	Nassau Community College
Ciara Olea	CUNY Baruch College	Tierra Tuosto	Nassau Community College
Frank Onolfi	Nassau Community College	Gillian Uhl	SUNY Cobleskill
Steven Oster	Nassau Community College	John Urquizo	Nassau Community College
Shirly Pallas	CUNY Hunter College	Jennifer Valverde	Nassau Community College
Paul Pangallo	Five Towns College	Matthew Van Doff	Long Island University - C.W. Post Campus
Niki Papaioannou	Culinary Institute of America	Alexis van Gelder	Nassau Community College
Ravi Patel	Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus	James Varvaro	Nassau Community College
Meghna Patel	Northeastern University (MA)	Joseph Velardi	Nassau Community College
Christopher Patton	Nassau Community College	Ismael Villalba	Nassau Community College
Katheryn Pena	Nassau Community College	Kristin Visone	SUNY Morrisville
Robyn Perrotto	Nassau Community College	Kevin Walsh	Northeastern University (MA)
Antony Pichilingue	Art & Culinary Institute of San Diego (CA)	Michael Ward	Molloy College
Gioia Pirrello	Bennington College (VT)	Danielle Wease	Nassau Community College
Anthony Pizzicarola	SUNY Oneonta	Stacey Weinberg	Nassau Community College
Alex Pozin	SUNY Buffalo University	William Wirtz	Towson University (MD)
Christa Praino	Nassau Community College	Laura Wu	Nassau Community College
Stephy Prasad	Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus	Wan Hua Xie	SUNY Stony Brook
Danielle Ragusa	Nassau Community College	Henri Yanes	Cornell University
Rahul Rajendran	New York Institute of Technology	James Young	Career Institute of Health & Techonology
Alexander Ramos	Nassau Community College	Arielle Zabala	Nassau Community College
Xenia Reyes	CUNY John Jay College	John Zanca	SUNY Old Westbury
Nancy Rios	Nassau Community College	Ariel Zapata	SUNY Old Westbury
Vincent Riservato	American International College (MA)	Liana Zartun	St. John's Unviersity
Jose Rivera-Gutierrez	Nassau Community College	Georgi Zelman	SUNY F.I.T.
			Nassau Community College

Versatile achievers lead the accomplished Class of 2008

The two awe-inspiring young women ranking highest in West Hempstead High School's Class of 2008 have been highly successful not only in the classroom, but in athletic, extracurricular and service activities as well. Their achievements are representative of the excellence of this outstanding graduating class.

Wan Hua Xie, Valedictorian

Top-ranked graduate Wan Hua Xie excels across the board. Academically, she has earned high grades in the most rigorous program West Hempstead High School has to offer, including honors and advanced placement courses. Wan has committed herself to a career in engineering, and will attend Cornell University in the fall.

Our valedictorian shared her vast knowledge base with others, spending time tutoring classmates in physics, chemistry and math, and working with children at the local library during summers.

Wan shone athletically as well as academically, participating on West Hempstead's conference-winning champion volleyball team and earning an all-conference designation for her playing skill. She also excelled at badminton, and was team captain for the past three years and all-conference in this sport as well. Wan was tapped for the highly selective Athletes Helping Athletes organization, whose members speak to younger students about healthy lifestyles and decision-making.

Described as "incredible and well rounded," Wan was a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and she has been in the orchestra as well as the concert and marching bands. She was respected by her classmates, and was elected class treasurer three times and voted "most likely to succeed." She works at her family's business and at a local pharmacy.

Wan is grateful to the faculty for creating "an amazing academic environment." WHHS "will always and forever be cherished in our hearts," she said.



Kimberly Chipetine, Salutatorian

Kimberly Chipetine entered West Hempstead High School as a sophomore and quickly proved herself to be a mature, hardworking, dedicated, intelligent young woman. Since then, she has taken the most competitive program available, including many advanced placement and honors courses.

Kim's intellectual curiosity, combined with a strong interest and aptitude in math and science, led her to pursue enriching experiences both in and out of school. As a junior, she participated in the Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine with young people from all over the country. Kim interned at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, participating in high-level research that earned her several science awards.

However, it was her experience in a Worcester Polytechnic Institute program called WUNDERS (Women Understanding New Dimensions in Engineering Related Sciences) that led her to plan a career in engineering, which she will pursue this fall at Brown University.

Kim put her leadership qualities to use through participation in the WHHS community service organization Key Club, of which she was vice president. She was the editor of the literary magazine and captain of the tennis team. Reliable and determined, Kim also held a job in a local law office.

"West Hempstead High School," said Kim, "is the place in which I have met the most unique individuals, thought-provoking situations, challenging ultimatums and loyal friends."



Community Scholarship Awards

Community Service and Academic Excellence Awards

Nassau County

Kristyn Sandberg

Wan Hua Xie

Town of Hempstead

Kimberly Chipetine

Nassau County Legislature Student Citizenship Award

Akaz John

New York State Comptroller's Achievement Award

Meghna Patel

Nassau County Comptroller's Achievement Award

Katherine McAvoy

New York Lottery Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship

Katherine McAvoy

West Hempstead Football Parents Club Scholarships in Memory of Kevin Colbert

Matthew Greiner

Christopher Scheel

Character, Courage and Commitment Triple "C" Awards

Elizabeth Sczesnak

Libo Li

West Hempstead Community Scholarship Awards

Kimberly Kuhnert

Leila Memet

Timothy Trezza

Wan Hua Xie

West Hempstead Community Support and Civic Association

Alex Pozin

Timothy Trezza

(continued on back page)