

# COLD SPRING HARBOR



VOLUME 39, NUMBER 1

A REPORT ON OUR SCHOOLS

FALL 2015

## A Message from the Superintendent....

Dear Community Member:

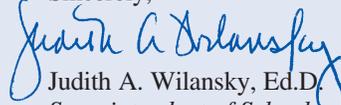
On Tuesday, September 1st, the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District welcomed approximately 1822 students to our schools. Last May, the Cold Spring Harbor community approved a school budget that was carefully crafted to balance new initiatives within the constraints of the State mandated tax cap. We are enthusiastic about the initiatives for the 2015-16 school year because they continue to reflect our focus on the cornerstones of effective teaching and learning: a challenging curriculum, implementation of instructional methodologies / assessments that engage the 21st century student, and the concomitant systemic professional development to ensure that our teachers are supported and well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

The Board continues to protect the community's investment in our schools by implementing its long-term plan of infrastructure improvements to ensure that our facilities are properly maintained and that our students can learn in an environment that is safe and conducive to instruction. In addition to the annual in-depth cleaning of the schools, several summer projects were completed: a new main office at Lloyd Harbor School, freshly painted stairwells in the Field House, new instructional space for small group learning at the High School, refinishing of all gymnasium floors, and security upgrades throughout the district. Many of these improvements have been funded through our voter approved Capital Reserve program and have not resulted in any additional debt or need to issue construction bonds. This past May, the community once again supported plans for long-term facilities upgrades by voting affirmatively to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund.

Ultimately, all of the initiatives listed above could not result in student success unless students themselves view their school experience in a positive light. Children grow when they feel confident, supported and comfortable venturing into their "stretch zones". There is nothing as empowering as the feeling of success in the face of challenge or being able to bounce back from a disappointment. We are committed to beginning this school year with the goal of ensuring that each student feels a sense of *Seahawk Pride* as a valued member of our school community!

I thank you in advance for taking the time to keep up with all that happens in our schools. Cold Spring Harbor is a vibrant place to learn, achieve and dream "big". I hope you will join us for an athletic event, a theatre production or a concert in the coming year, our students are sure to impress you.

Sincerely,

  
Judith A. Wilansky, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



## My Hero

**Lloyd Harbor:** In remembrance of September 11th heroes, the LHS Student Council organized the creation of an American flag at Lloyd Harbor School. The students wrote the name of a hero on a red or white post-it note, which was used to create the flag. The message that this project sent out was that "A hero is someone we think of as special because of the good or brave things that person has done."

Librarian, Maryellen DiCioccio, provided the school with books to support the hero theme. This was a theme familiar to Ms. DiCioccio who, by working in Bay Shore Brightwaters Public library, was exposed to the NY statewide adopted Heroes Summer Reading Program. Student Council advisors, Jennifer Coniglio and Ashley Danielski, are very thankful for all of the teachers' collaboration on this very special project. Please come take a peak, and read about these heroes!

## A Message from the Board....

As we welcome the new school year, we acknowledge the incredible changes in education. The resources available to students and teachers today far exceed anything today's parents experienced when they attended school. Our students now use iPads and laptops as early as Kindergarten. Teachers use interactive whiteboards instead of chalkboards. Students use e-readers instead of just paper books. Teachers use educational software that tailors and adjusts reading materials for each student's abilities. Feedback software lets teachers know which concepts their students grasp and which need more explanation.

New software introduced this year allows teachers to expand the integration of technology tools into their classrooms. Our Kindergarten students will be using iPads during center time to work on concepts that represent each student's "next steps" in literacy and math through the expanded use of eSpark. Both elementary schools have expanded their electronic book collections and stu-

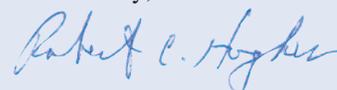
dents will utilize LightSail software to facilitate growth in reading comprehension. In the Junior High School, students will be using Achieve 3000, which provides news articles from the Associated Press that have been adjusted to their individual reading levels. It should be noted that all of these "personal learning" initiatives have been accelerated as a result of a magnanimous donation by the CSH Educational Foundation. Our faculty devoted time over the summer break to learn how to use these new tools.

Changes introduced from outside our classrooms are also changing the way our students learn and our teachers teach. Parents, educators, and politicians continue to debate the Common Core learning standards and the Annual Professional Performance Review process. Whether these changes benefit education or make it more difficult is debated endlessly. There is no doubt that the intentions are good. We won't let the background noise from these debates deter us

from the one basic truth that has always been the foundation of a good education—an engaging teacher leading a group of enthusiastic students.

The Board of Education will continue to work to provide our teachers with the tools they need to provide the best learning environment for our students. We are mindful of the financial constraints placed on school districts through the limits imposed by the tax cap and ever-growing costs that are beyond our control. For the foreseeable future, our financial position allows us to meet our educational goals. I can assure you that your Board of Education will continue to make the fiscal choices that will ensure that our children receive the best educational experience possible.

Sincerely,



Robert C.  
Hughes, *President*,  
CSH Board of Education



*Board of Education:*  
(seated)  
Amelia Brogan  
(Vice President),  
Robert C. Hughes  
(President),  
Anthony Paolano,  
(standing left to right)  
Mark Freiberg,  
Mark McAteer,  
Janice Elkin, and  
Ingrid Wright.

*Honors . . . Honors . . .*



## National Merit Scholarship Program 2016

Congratulations to the following students for being named “commended” and “semi-finalists” in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. During the fall of their junior year, students across the nation take the PSAT, and the top scores are then established. The National Merit Scholarship Program, dating back to 1955 – holds an annual academic competition identifying and honoring these HS students in the U.S. through recognition and college scholarships. Less than 3% of the 1.5 million students who take this test will become a recipient of the awarded Letters of Commendation. Six of our students received this honor: **Katja Martine Brechter**, **Aidan Coffey**, **Daniel Crosson**, **Skyler Palatnick**, **Sabrina Odierno** and **Christopher Wilcox**. Only less than 1% advance as semi-finalists, and three students received this distinguished recognition at CSHHS: **Andrew Gulotta**, **Zach Wang** and **Timothy Sherlock**. This is an amazing achievement and a wonderful honor. Congratulations to all!

- **Summer Lab Internships:** Teacher, Jaak Raudsepp (Director of Research) was proud to share four student internships at labs this summer. Three worked at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory: **Tamanna Bhatia** (in Alea Mills’ lab), **Cailey Brogan** (in Adam Siepel’s lab), and **Devin Wenger** (in David Tuveson’s lab). Both Tamanna and Cailey were also accepted into the prestigious *Partners of the Future* program. In addition **Aidan Coffey** worked in Justin Hill’s lab at the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains.

- **NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester, NY:** the Music Department had two students accepted to represent CSH School District. Thousands of students auditioned for this honor last spring at solo and ensemble festivals throughout the state. Secondary Music Coordinator, Brent Chiarello, would like to congratulate students: **John Sepanski** (selected for both bassoon and clarinet), and **Benjamin Basil** (selected as an alternate for snare drum), along with their teachers. John will perform at the All-State Conference in Rochester this December 3-6, 2015.

- **William Doyle**, (2015 Alumni) CSHHS Lacrosse goalie, was among six recipients of the second annual James C. Metzger Leadership Award. Doyle helped the Seahawks battle through last season winning a State Championship title, while maintaining the award’s leadership qualities of honesty, commitment, positive attitude, tenacity, and ability to inspire others both on and off the field.

*Honors . . . Honors . . .*



- **John Sepanski** (senior) was one of only 20 recipients to receive the *Long Island Arts Alliance (LIAA)* “Scholar Artist Award of Merit” in recognition of his dedication to art and being a very valuable asset to his school district, as well as demonstrating hard work, excellent scholarship and other accomplishments. John will be honored at Half Hollow Hills East High School on September 9th and at an end-of-the-year reception at the Tilles Center on the C.W. Post Campus.



**CSH Jr./Sr. High and West Side receive “Reward School Certificate” 2015-2016:** Board of Education President, Robert C. Hughes, presented both schools with the NY State Department of Education “Reward School” Award for the 2015-2016 school year. New York State Commissioner John B. King, Jr. identifies Reward Schools as either schools that have high achievement or schools that have made the most progress in the state and do not have significant gaps in student achievement between subgroups, while adhering to very specific performance and progress measurements. Congratulations! □

## State Property Tax Rebates

**Cold Spring Harbor School District Designated Lead Agency for Consortium:** Last year many of our local tax payers received money back from the state in property tax rebates, and CSH School District wants to ensure it happens again.



Under the direction of Dr. William Bernhard, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business, the Cold Spring Harbor School District, has been designated as the lead agency for a consortium of school districts in Western Suffolk BOCES to coordinate a property tax efficiency plan which was submitted to the state June 1, 2015. If approved by the New York State Budget Office, it will ensure that the rebate continues into the 2015-2016 school year. Last year, qualifying property owners received a rebate if their school district stayed within the state’s 2% property tax cap

when developing its budget with cost savings. This year, in order to receive the rebate, school districts must continue to remain within the tax cap but also develop this tax efficiency plan. This is part of the two-year state property tax freeze credit program, estimated to result in \$1.5 billion in taxpayer savings state wide. In order to qualify for the program and receive reimbursement on any school tax increase, the taxpayer must be the primary home owner and have an annual income below \$500,000. □



- **Timothy Sherlock** (senior) was selected for the National Association for Music Education’s (NAfME’s) All National Honors Chorus and will perform on the historic *Grand Ole Opry House* stage at the Festival in Nashville on October 29th. Only 670 of the nation’s top high school musicians were selected out of 2.5 million hopefuls and invited to showcase their talents. This is an honor awarded to very few students, and even fewer school districts, congratulations for representing CSH Music on the National level. (Timothy has also been selected as a finalist on Long Island’s Got Talent!)

Back to school reports from Our Principals . . . Back to school reports from Our Principals

# Goosehill Report

From Mrs. Herschlein...

We experienced a very smooth opening at Goosehill Primary School, welcoming 203 students, including 23 new families. All of the children entered prepared, happy, and ready to start the school year! Over the past few months, we held Kindergarten Screenings, Parent Orientations, Welcome Teas, and an Open House when the children visited their new classrooms and met their teachers. These activities helped our students and their families feel comfortable and eager to begin the school year. Teachers worked over the summer preparing for the new school year and engaging in professional development. They are looking forward to implementing the new components of our instructional program and working with their students.

The first days of school were exciting, in spite of the heat wave! Teachers held lessons in air-conditioned rooms whenever possible, and fans offered a welcome breeze. During the first weeks of school, teachers engage the children in activities designed to foster their ability to listen carefully, interact respectfully, follow routines, and implement procedures. Our goal is to develop independence and a sense of competence so that our students can learn at high levels, take pride in their accomplishments, and become contributing members of their school community. The GPFA continues to provide a great deal of support for all of our programs. This summer, they went above and beyond when they redecorated the staff room, adding many welcoming surprises. All are ready for the upcoming annual GPFA Welcome Back Picnic, which is a favorite experience for our families. Goosehill also welcomed the YMCA Before and After Care Program to the building. We all look forward to a great year! □



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# Lloyd Harbor Report

*From Valerie Massimo....*

Lloyd Harbor School welcomed 400 students, including 25 new students. The PTG hosted a New Family Orientation and organized our annual "second grade shadows" program. Returning students were surprised to find a new location for the Main Office, which now spans the distance of the entire front hallway. Large windows provide enhanced visibility and create a safer, more welcoming atmosphere. *"I had students making creative excuses to come see me, and deliver things, just so they could see our new space!"* Although we opened still living out of boxes, we were fully functioning and organized for the students' first day. Additional changes around LHS include the nurse's office being moved to the former Main Office location and, thanks to the PTG, we now have new fiberglass backboards in our gymnasium. During the first week of school, grade level assemblies were held with a focus on student safety, appropriate behavior and proper use of technology. *"Everyone has the right to feel safe and comfortable, and no one has the right to take that away!"* Even with all the changes, the one thing that remains constant is the dedication of our faculty and staff who are committed to making our learning environment challenging, authentic and motivating! Looking forward to a great year...



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# West Side Report

*From Kurt Simon....*

It is hard to believe the summer has come and gone. We rang in the new school year (as the sound of the original school bell echoed throughout the halls) for the 226th time welcoming back 239 students, 16 of whom are new to our community. Special thanks to Student Council President, Logan Vitagliano and former Principal, Ted Hilton, for leading our student body in this traditional event.



When I first became Principal I welcomed only three new students to West Side, so this year it was a pleasure to welcome 16 to West Side. As usual, our 6th graders led the way with tours and answered questions. I noticed older students taking young students under their wings at lunch, recess and on the bus, making sure no one was left alone or left out. We held new family orientations, grade level assemblies, reviewed DASA regulations, prepared team and grade level charters, resurrected a new "West Side Sign," and installed a new LCD TV. The PTG held their first meeting, and a summer reading celebration was held with the suggested theme of "Become an Expert" on something you love. Categories ranged from space exploration to geography to organic eating and gardening. The kids loved it, and the teachers had very positive feedback. Thank you to Ms. Fraiberg who once again arranged this experience for our students and staff. Our annual H.E.R.O. Project is underway with our student spirit photographers out and about capturing events. The PTG made sure all the school supplies were delivered, as well as special goodie bags for the teachers and staff on the first day. Mr. Hilton shared that he had never seen a happier school. I would have to agree! □

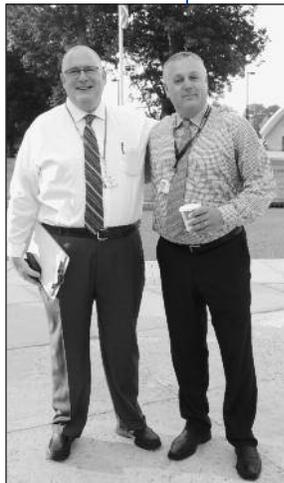


Back to school reports from Our Principals . . . Back to school reports from Our Principals

# Jr./Sr. High School Report

*From Jay Matuk...*

It was a pleasure to welcome back 970 students (including 37 new students). It was an extremely hot school opening, yet the halls seemed to be filled with smiles at seeing old friends, while the fields were once again packed with athletes in uniform trying to survive the heat. We had our Ambassadors in place thanks to the help of Mrs. Halloran's community service groups and the *Natural Helpers Club* for any students needing help, or extra eyes to make sure everyone is taken care of. The seniors and parents attended the annual *Safe Driving Program*, for the safety and privilege of driving and parking at school, where repeated lessons never get old when it comes to our children getting behind the wheel. Back to School nights are underway, and the first parent CFA meeting was held with Director of Guidance, Andrew Rosenberg as speaker. Grade level meetings were held with all classes, and we welcomed many new aids and teacher assistants this year who all have a wonderful way with the students, (compliments to Denise Campbell, Executive Director of Special Education and Pupil Services for putting this group together). As always, thank you to the Board of Education, Administration, and all the faculty and staff who work tirelessly over the summer with professional development and setting up for a smooth and seamless transition into the new school year. □



Back to school reports from Our Principals . . . Back to school reports from Our Principals

# Jr. High School Report

*From Joseph Monastero...*

The junior high opened its door early in August to 145 7th graders starting with the annual "Beautification" day where students in grades 7 and 8 decorated t-shirts, did yoga, had dance-offs, ate pizza, and mostly made new friends. Many students also received their hallway lockers on the second day of Beautification. Next was the annual BBQ and orientation, where students and parents met the faculty, walked the halls with the help of 60 upperclassmen *Seahawk Ambassadors* to find their scheduled classrooms, and decorated their lockers (aka "apartments") with shag carpets, chandeliers, magnetic chapsticks and wall paper! All students have their new student portals up and running, classroom charters set, and the new Achieve 3000 programs underway. The 8th graders (155) jumped right in to the second annual "Challenge Day" at Caumsett Park, on a warm day. It's a very special, yet challenging day, of ice-breaker games and carefully selected groups meant to take kids out of their comfort zones breaking down cliques and barriers and creating new friendships. It truly is an amazing day. □



# Caumsett Park Challenge Day

On September 8th, five days into the new school year, 155 eighth graders piled onto buses for the second annual field trip to Caumsett Park. This wasn't an ordinary field trip, but rather an initiative sparked by D.A.S.A. (Dignity for All Students Act) a NY state mandated curriculum which seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and took effect on July 1, 2012.

Principal Jay Matuk explained,

*"We took great pains planning this event last June, and spent several hours*

*dividing kids into groups, taking them out of their comfort zones and making sure that students had the opportunity to experience the day with peers whom that might not necessarily have gotten to know during their 7th grade year at CSH."* Student were placed into teams and were required to engage in a series of activities including **Cooperative Games** "icebreakers," **Initiatives**

*"... the day's theme ...  
"If you really knew who I am."*



"problem solving tasks," and **Low Ropes Course** "physical challenge." All groups were facilitated by a

BOCES trained teacher as well as co-supervised by a member of the CSH faculty. Barriers were broken as stu-

dents found themselves working side by side with peers who until today were just classmates but now were becoming friends. This also enabled our students to become more aware of the existence of cliques and the behaviors which can unknowingly exclude others. They practiced strong communication and negotiation skills through listening and speaking. There

were conflicts to resolve and every student had the opportunity to provide input into the way the team solved each of their challenges. . . Often students were heard saying, "I'm convinced this is impossible!" and "No one can do this!" Some who had arrived disappointed that they were not with their friends, all spoke later about their experiences and how they were happy to meet so many new friends and breakdown preconceived notions about some of their classmates. It was SEL (Social Emotional Learning) at its best. We are very grateful to the staff at the

Caumsett State Park Preserve – Nassau BOCES Environmental Center for a fabulous day!

Due to the success of this day for eighth graders, Principal, Jay Matuk, contracted with an outside organization to facilitate several "Challenge Days" for 10th-12th graders last year, with full day workshops held in the gymnasium for students and teacher team leaders. These days proved to be incredibly powerful, with students discovering much about what each of them had in common with each other, while working with the day's theme of "If you really knew who I am." Students and staff acknowledged it was one of the best days ever spent at their school, and all look forward to continuing the program this year. □

## School Facility Updates



While many of us were enjoying "schools out!" summer vacations, the district plunged into full-force facility update mode. Over the summer, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Mark Margolies, and his staff completed an impressive number of upgrades and repairs. The custodial staff in every building stripped and re-waxed all the floors, shampooed all the carpets, painted, cleaned and repaired all rooms and furniture, cleaned all windows and blinds, installed more whiteboards, and relocated teacher classrooms. At Lloyd Harbor a Capital Reserve Project supported a major change by relocating and reconfiguring the Main Office (photo inset), the Health office, and the Faculty Lounge. At the Jr./Sr. High new teaching spaces were created for Special Education, the wood floors in the gyms were screened and recoated, boilers were tuned up, and window hardware was repaired or replaced. At the elementary schools ten CCTV Cameras were installed as well as twenty CCTV Cameras at the Jr./Sr. High. The stairways at the Field House were painted through another capital reserve project. These are just a few of the many completed projects that the school community will enjoy for years to come. □

## Everyone loves a Picnic

Goosehill students and parents enjoyed the beloved annual event “Goosehill Picnic” on September 18th. The weather was spectacular, the bounce houses were jumpin’, the music was cranking, the playground was filled, and there was pizza and Ralph’s ices for all. The best part was seeing all the children laughing, hugging, and high-fiving as parents spun around trying to keep up with them! It’s a wonderful day to reconnect for families, and meet new friends. It’s no wonder this is a Goosehill favorite event. □



## Achieve 3000

*Achieve 3000* is a new initiative introduced to students in grades 7-9 at the Jr./Sr. High School this fall that provides the only patented cloud-base solutions that deliver daily differentiated instruction for nonfiction reading and writing that’s precisely tailored to each student. Based on decades of scientific research, *Achieve 3000*’s proven method of online differentiated instruction engages all learners at their individual reading levels and constantly challenges them to improve their literacy skills and master increasingly rigorous academic standards and assessments. *Achieve 3000* uses Associated Press articles that have been rewritten at 12 different Lexile (scale of reading ability) levels allowing all students to participate in classroom activities at their personal reading level. This program is currently being offered to students for the first time, with all teachers receiving professional development on its implementation. Once a baseline Lexile reading level is established for each student, intervention begins in the classroom with teacher-led instruction that hones in on specific skill deficits. Curriculum standards are aligned with instruction in science and social studies classes as well. The program is fully compatible with mobile devices, iPads, Google Chrome books and beyond, which you can enable initiating “anytime, anywhere learning.” □



## Pasta Anyone?

*West Side kicked off its annual Tomato Sauce Day thanks to the Garden Club, Mrs. Berg, and PTG volunteers. Families tend to the organic garden all summer long, and because of these dedicated volunteers, West Side continues its tradition of hosting this beloved event, with delicious pasta and sauce for lunch, along with fresh herbs, sprinkles of Parmesan cheese and bread. It’s a huge hit...another helping please?*

**COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

75 Goose Hill Road  
Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. 11724

[www.csh.k12.ny.us](http://www.csh.k12.ny.us)

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**Notice to All Parents**

**Early Dismissal Drill Emergency Management Plan Requirement**

In compliance with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District has scheduled its annual test of the Early Dismissal Drill for:

**Friday, October 9th 2015**

All pupils in Grades K through 12 will be released ten minutes earlier than their scheduled dismissal time in order to test the early dismissal response of the district’s Emergency Management Plan. Please make appropriate arrangements for the early arrival of your children as a result of the drill. Thank you.

**Attention  
Taxpayers**

The New York State School **TAX Relief (STAR)** program provides a school property tax reduction for **ALL** “primary residence” property owners. There are two types of STAR exemptions: Basic STAR and Enhanced STAR (for those over 65 and who meet income limits). Suffolk residents may call 631-351-3308 for more information; Nassau residents, 516-571-2490.

**“Staying Cool in School”**



*The first two weeks of school proved to be a challenge with the heat wave, but Goosehill students Emily Goldstein and Taylor Winthrop, certainly had fun trying to stay cool!*

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