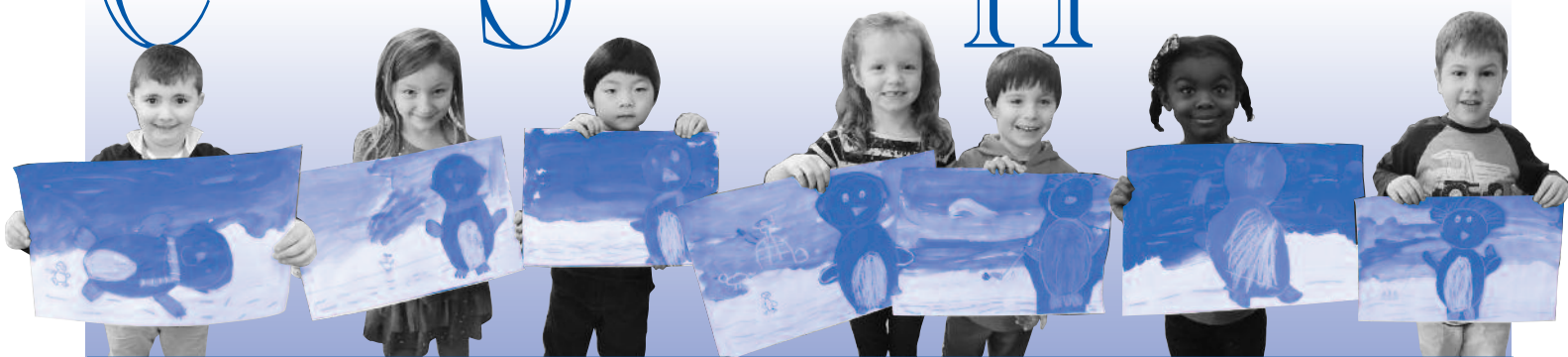


# COLD SPRING HARBOR



VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3

A REPORT ON OUR SCHOOLS

WINTER 2014

## Research Lab Up and Running!

When teacher Jaak Raudsepp came to CSHHS four years ago, he was thrilled to be working with the world renowned CSH Laboratory and teaching classes like Molecular & Genomic Biology to top science students. But, he also had a goal in mind, to introduce “Research” classes and possibly enter into the world of Siemens and Intel Science Award Competitions. It’s a huge undertaking, but Mr. Raudsepp has proven he is up for the challenge. Introduction to Research I & II classes are offered as electives and students may continue to enroll in an Independent Research class offered as a full year course. These courses are designed to provide students with research skills in the natural and social sciences, including how to evaluate the validity of websites, access and utilize electronic databases, build a bibliography, evaluate data, create graphs using Excel, write a research paper, and make an effective oral presentation. Independent Research students create a portfolio and enter their research project in at least one local research fair or competition.

In the fall of 2013, the high school built an in-house Research Lab thanks to a generous donation from the CSH Educational Foundation along with District Funds which helped build a Lab, buy 12 laptops, a microscope, a water purification system and a sterilization machine. Mr. Raudsepp said, “We are extremely fortunate to have a Lab like this, most high schools do not come close to



*“...We are unique in that our Research courses differ from most high schools in that we offer choices beyond science research topics, such as computer science and the social sciences.”*

what we have here. We are unique in that our Research courses differ from most high schools in that we offer choices beyond science research topics, such as computer science and the social sciences.” In order to reach Intel and Siemens level competition status, students must commit from 9th grade through their senior year to perfect a topic and idea. It’s a serious time commitment, including summers, to reach that level. Mr. Raudsepp shared, “This is our first year with a Lab. It takes time and dedicated hardcore science students to yield results in high level competitions. It’s no dif-

*ferent than a winning sports program. It takes great effort and commitment. We are off to a great start.”*

Senior student Jonathan Paris took Intro to Research for the first time this year. He shared some advice for younger students, “I only got to take this class as a senior, but if I was starting high school again, I would definitely take this multiple years so I could build a stronger scientific foundation, participate in competitions, and increase my chances to work in the prestigious Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories. This class taught me important skills that have prepared me not only for college but for life as well. I enjoyed the flexibility to work within my own limits and strengthen my individual work habits. This class motivated me to explore neuroscience, and Mr. Raudsepp’s passion and knowledge is inspiring.”

The class introduced a Research program last summer, with two former graduate students volunteering as summer interns. Kimberly Arena, now at Duke University, and Sara Chau, now at Cornell University, were both part of this internship program conducting their own research while overseeing students. The Research course was introduced during their junior year of high school, and it not only provided the perfect supplemental essay for colleges, but taught them the necessary high level skills to read scholarly research articles and how to use them to support research papers in college. Kimberly Arena shared, “The research program at Cold Spring Harbor gave me a foundation that set me apart from other applicants. We don’t realize how lucky we are to live

*(continued on page 2)*

## Research Lab, cont'd

*in a town that has amazing research facilities at our disposal, Even if you don't think you will pursue research as a career, the skills and experience that you acquire are beneficial in any field of work. From writing college research papers to working in labs or shadowing doctors, having any kind of research background will put you one step ahead of everyone else. Mr. Raudsepp has continued to guide me in my research and other aspects of my life. I would definitely encourage others to try it!"* □

*"Even if you don't think you will pursue research as a career, the skills and experience that you acquire are beneficial in any field of work."*



At the INTEL LISEF (Long Island International Science and Engineering Fair) competition, held on February 10th at Crest Hollow, two juniors entered their research projects. **Andrew Kurland** (left), presented a Biochemistry project after working last summer and throughout the school year in a lab at the Eistein College of Medicine in the Bronx. **Aspyr Polatnick** (right), presented a Computer Science project after working last summer and throughout the school year in a lab at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Both are Independent Research students, and this is Round #1 with INTEL LISEF where the top 25% will be selected in each of the 17 categories for Long Island students. Those selected will advance to Round #2 in mid-March, where the final top recipients advance to the International (six-day) Fair held in Los Angeles later this year. Congratulations to both Andrew and Aspyr who were invited to Round #2 in March!

## Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)

At the November CFA~PTG meeting, club advisor, Ms. Joey Waters, and students from the Gay Straight Alliance Club made a presentation to parents and the CFA Board to enlighten the community about their goals and how they raise awareness. Students visit classrooms at the Jr./Sr. high school and discuss the use of language, tolerance, and acceptance of others. The club created a video blog and an anti-bullying campaign. Ms. Waters shared, *"I am so proud of this group and excited about how they are educating and informing our community by putting a positive spin on understanding various gender identities and accepting everyone."* Formed in 2003, Ms. Waters shared how fortunate she felt to have both a supportive parent community and administration for the club. She shared, *"Fellow colleagues in other high schools have been asked to tone down the message of GSA, and even encouraged to change its club name to 'Adversity Club.' I am so proud and grateful to be in a district that not only embraces our message, but encourages our students to lead the way."*



### ***Class Dismissed: The Bullying Project.***

In the elementary schools *Theatre Three* visited and performed an original musical to address the issue of bullying in the classroom, cafeteria, schoolyard, and the internet. The play provides active solutions to the various issues as well as follow-up activities and discussion topics.

### ***Former Alumni speaks up about bullying:***

Meredith O'Connor, class of 2013, came back to visit 7th grade health classes and speak about overcoming and handling the pressures of being bullied.



**MANUARY!!!** Seventeen male teachers volunteered this year for the annual longest beard "Manuary" contest, which brings awareness to a fundraiser initiative for food donations to local food banks desperately in need. Student donations succeeded in topping last year's donations by doubling the record with nearly 3,350 units of food collected – WOW! Donations were sent to Long Island Cares, Island Harvest, and several others. The teacher who collected the most and this year's winner was Mr. Anthony Pesca with Mr. Chris Topping close behind in second place. Mr. Bryan Schiffmacher came in third followed by Mr. Ryan Towers in fourth and Mr. Chris Phelan in fifth place. Many thanks to new contestants this year like Mr. Louis Santoli and Mr. Nick Fengler for joining the race for the best beard. This has become a great tradition at the high school and a wonderful way to help local food pantries. Thank you to community service coordinator, Mrs. Alison Halloran and her Leadership Class for organizing this drive.



## Capetown, S. Africa *iPad initiative*

**High School Principal, Jay Matuk**, has been a long time adjunct professor at CW Post University. This past winter break, a unique opportunity arose for Long Island Principals to participate in a trip to S. Africa following a grant extended to CW Post which funded 24 iPads with routers to four schools during this trip and provided instructional support to students and staff regarding their usage. Mr. Matuk, along with one other LI elementary Principal, two members of the CW Post faculty, and two IT specialists, all volunteered their expertise and time to make this happen. Mr. Matuk shared, "As part of an inaugural partnership between Stellenbosch University (Capetown, South Africa) and CW Post our team has established relationships with several high needs schools in the townships outside Capetown. For over two years, several Long Island Principals, including myself, have been corresponding and web-chatting with our educational counterparts in South Africa." The schools themselves have electricity and are surrounded by barbed wire fences for security; however, the towns themselves have no running water or electricity. Violence, crime, and drugs are rampant, yet school attendance is 100%. Strangely, the local schools battle the difficulties of state education bureaucracy and standardize testing issues just like us! Mr.



Matuk recorded a girl's dance troupe at one of the elementary schools in honor of their visit. He said, "The recording of that event on my iPad was the first time ANY of them had seen themselves perform." They were fascinated to do on-line web searches, and loved taking photos of each other. Students in these schools will now be able to webchat with students in CSHHS Social Studies and Leadership classes as part of the continued conversation and study through the grant. This summer, Principals from S. Africa will be visiting CW Post, and Mr. Matuk hopes to invite them to our school for a tour. He shared, "What also made the trip amazing was that we were in South Africa during the time Nelson Mandela passed away. We felt privileged to be there during that time and just several days before had toured his cell on the Robben Island prison where he was held for two decades." We look forward to follow-up stories from our HS students on this amazing journey. □



## Hour of Code *Computer Science Week*

The CSH Educational Foundation (CSHEF) partnered with the School District to conduct the global-wide **Hour of Code** in the elementary schools during "Computer Science Week." Computer giants like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg supported and organized **Hour of Code** with a goal to get 10 million people around the globe to participate during the week of December 9th, 2013. Although the Code participation is age-limitless, CSH school district concentrated on grades 2-6 at WS and LH, with CSHEF president, Stephanie DiNozzi, facilitating the sessions. Please see [www.code.org](http://www.code.org) and see for yourself how "Angry Birds" tutorials motivated our youth to tackle a little computer science through the exploration of games and coding. Computer science and coding develop students' computational and critical thinking skills and shows them how to create, not simply use, new technologies. We live in a world surrounded by technology and we know that whatever field our children choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. □

## Reminder to Students...Access your desktop at HOME!

West Side, Lloyd Harbor and Jr/Sr High Students...

**You can access your full school computer desktop, including programs and your own home folder (documents and files) from anywhere...on any device.** All you need is an Internet connection, a free app, and your own device (PC, Mac, iPad/iPhone or Droid).

When you use the app to log into the CSH Virtual Desktop you will be able to open and work with all your school documents. Started a paper at school and want to continue working on it at home? No problem! Just log into the CSH Virtual Desktop and open and save files as you normally would. When you get back to school it will be there, including the changes you made

while at home. **No need for flash drives** to bring documents back and forth! To get started visit our website and look for CSH Virtual Desktop under "For Students" for information. Follow the instructions for your particular device. We recommend you print the pages which apply to you before you begin. And remember...help is always just a click away!

## Creating eBooks

Normally, third graders are learning keyboarding on the computers, never mind tackling writing a book! But technology specialist Deborah Levesque had an idea to pilot an eBook project and approached Dr. Dawkins at West Side to try an experiment. Rather than the traditional way of publishing writing, Ms. Levesque understands the excitement and innate technology awareness these kids have and sought to capture that interest. Times have changed, and most kids have their own laptops or iPads at home. Imagine if they could publish their very own five chapter electronic book (eBook) and share it with family and relatives. Well, that's just what they did! As part of the Teachers College Information Writing unit, students chose a subject they were "experts" in. The idea was to share information they know while creating a book with a table of contents, headings, captions, pictures, videos and more – all while learning the elements of non-fiction! Additionally, students learned how to use the Book Creator app, the Drop Box app, access the school library, and begin building their very own eBook collection. The authors even created a video introduction for their eBooks. Ms. Levesque used AppleTV via the SMARTBoard and special apps for



these eBook creations. "This is so much more exciting to kids than traditional book publishing, and we hope to build a true eBook library in our elementary schools." Ms. Levesque also shared, "Piloting this project with Dr. Dawkins's class has allowed us to work out any kinks before we introduce it to other grade levels at Lloyd Harbor and West Side." Some eBook topics were, *How to Train Your Dog*, *Horseback Riding*, *Making Rainbow Loom Bracelets*, and *How to Survive the First Week of Third Grade*, by Michael Byrne. Michael even interviewed 2nd graders in his sister's class about their fears and he will be presenting his eBook to the entire 2nd grade! Dr. Dawkins said, "*The interactive nature of this project has been truly amazing. I see how much it enhances the writing process.*" Great job, third grade writers! □



## Newsday Kidsday reporters

*Cold Spring Harbor students tested their reporting skills in NYC at the Marriott Marquee Hotel on January 31st as Kidsday reporters for Newsday. Students Chris Porzelt, Jack Mastroberti, and Joey Libretti, interviewed New Orleans Saints Quarterback, Drew Brees, and NY Giants lineman, Justin Tuck. Brees was there to honor the four award winners in the Super Service Challenge.*



## Hawk Talk Good Morning Seahawks!

CSH Jr./Sr. high school now has a morning news show, broadcast live each morning. Student volunteers report via the SMARTBoard into each classroom. Students deliver the weather, school news, awards, sporting/arts events, afterschool club information and of course the traditional reciting of the pledge. The high school now joins West Side and Lloyd Harbor who also broadcast a live news report each morning. John Contess, Director of Technology, and the IT staff, worked in collaboration with IPTVflix (Bayshore). The morning show is named "Hawk Talk" and club advisor, Ms. Kristine O'Malley-Levy, works with the students creatively organizing the morning announcements along with occasional videos, and clever commercials. A great way to start the morning! □



## Ole! Flamingo Dancing

*On December 9th, Ms. Maria Loreta, of Sol Y Sombra Spanish Dance Company gave a workshop to the high school Spanish language classes. Ms. Loreta related the various techniques of Flamenco dance. The students learned foot-*

*work (zapateado), arm (braceo), and hand (flores) patterns which form the various multicultural development of the Spanish language and people. □*





## Creating Graphic Novels

**Mr. Marcus McLaurin, former editor of Marvel Comics** returned to CSH high school again this year on January 15th to give two presentations on Graphic Novel Development. Mr. Marcus explained that the art of storytelling is a method of recording history and telling a story. The human mind processes stories easily because stories are memorable and help us communicate experiences and concepts. The stories are what draw the eyes and engage the mind. After the presentation a select number of students were fortunate to attend a three hour workshop with by Mr. McLaurin, on the art of creating a graphic novel. Thank you to The Cultural Art Committee (CAC) for bringing these events to life. *(CAC also brought in Master Printmaker/Artist, Dan Weldon, writer/performer, Ellen Hagan, (to the 8th grade English classes), Heritage Blues Trio from Lincoln Center (to the elementary schools), and many others.)* □



*Professional Artist, Cliff Mendelson, brought his prestigious teaching experience to students at the Jr./Sr. High School. Here, students in Ms. Hayes class enjoy "A Day of Clay" workshop thanks to the Cultural Arts Committee.*



CSH high school offered a new type of business course this year, taught by Patricia Connelly. *Virtual Enterprise* is an in-school entrepreneurship program and global business simulation that draws on the European tradition of apprenticeships. Each year Virtual Enterprise International transforms 500 classrooms (nationally) and 5,000 classrooms (internationally) into offices and 100,000 students into business executives. Students learn by doing. The simulated business replicates all of the functions and demands of a real business in both structure and practice, from product development, production and distribution to marketing, sales, human resources, finance and accounting. As "employees" of the virtual business, students are accountable for their company's management and performance. Through a web-based banking system that con-

nects 5,000 student run businesses in 40 countries, students experience the expectations of the global economy and find new solutions to drive business results by trading across industries, borders and cultures. Mrs. Connelly's class experienced their first competition at the Long Island Business Plan Competition at Farmingdale State University in January, (they also presented at the February Board of Education meeting). In April, they will be participating at the International Trade Show in Manhattan. The students introduced "*Cirst Enterprises*" A *Beverage Company* with delicious and eco-friendly products like Cirst Tea, Frizzle-Pop, and Wet Water. They have been busy marketing their products to fellow students who can buy "virtually" on the internet and increase their sales and profits. Their slogan.... "Are you Cirsty?" is clever and catchy! The judges at their first competition were quite impressed for a first year company, and they look forward to building an even stronger company next year. □



## West Side Community Helpers Day

*On February 11th second graders held their Community Helper show in the gymnasium. They dressed up in their community helper outfits and presented their tri-fold boards to their parents...adorable!*

## Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . . Honors . . .



- Susanleigh Perissi ASSET Award:** Ms. Perissi (High School Foreign Language teacher), was selected as a *Bright Light* by the Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Educational Technology (ASSET). *Bright Lights* are selected due to their exemplary integration of technology into their educational environment. Ms. Perissi was honored at the ASSET luncheon on January 16, 2014 and was accompanied by Superintendent, Dr. Judith A. Wilansky, Director of Technology, John Contess, and Debbie Levesque, teacher/technology specialist. She shared, *“The way I deliver instruction has completely changed since I started 21 years ago. This change began when I enrolled in the MS in Instructional Technology cohort here at the high school several years ago. I cannot imagine how dull it would be to teach, in these times, without the technology that CSH has graciously supplied to me and allowed me to integrate into my instruction. I’ve implemented a flipped-classroom model for much of my instruction and that technology is integral to it. 21st century learners receive and process information in such a different way than previous learners did. My students create iMovies, interview or podcast, do original role play recordings, and more. I have established a sister-program with a school in México, and my students have “epals” I am learning about videoconferencing, and it is my dream to be able to teleconference class-to-class in the near future!* Mrs. Perissi is also the advisor to the International Club and co-advisor to the Spanish Club.”

- Mark McAteer** was officially sworn in as a Trustee of the Cold Spring Harbor Board of Education to complete the remainder of the term which was vacated in November by Joseph Morante. The Board appointed Mr. McAteer at the December Board meeting and thanked him for his commitment to serve the students and residents of the community. Mr. McAteer resides in Lloyd Harbor with his wife, Christine, and their two children who attend Lloyd Harbor Elementary and Cold Spring Harbor Jr. High School. He is a landscape designer by profession and the founder/owner of The Laurel Group located in Huntington and Southampton.
- CPC (Central Parent Council)** welcomed **Senator Carl Marcellino** on February 6th at the District Office. He discussed the latest topics in NYS education including Common Core, Testing, Privacy Issues, Funding, and NYS Budget concerns.



- Geography Bee Junior High:** Congratulations to **Luca Magariello** who placed first and will be taking a writing test to see if he scores high enough to attend the next round in New York State. The following students placed; **Elijah Farkash** (2nd), **Alexander Robins** (3rd), **Alexander Wright** (4th).
- Spelling Bee West Side:** Congratulations to first place champion **Heather Baxter**, and runner up, **Timothy Louie**.
- Geography Bee West Side:** Congratulations to winner Timothy Louie, and runner-up Ben Davidson.
- Spelling Bee Lloyd Harbor:** Congratulations to first place winner Connor O’Keefe (4th grade) and runner-up Nick Collins (4th grade)



- Robotics Club: The CSH Cyberhawks Team #2875 took second place at the First Robotics Invitational Tournament** on November 16, 2013, held at Half Hollow Hills. Twenty seven robots from across Long Island participated in the tournament where robot alliances battled to be the most successful at shooting Frisbees into selected targets, climbing a jungle gym style pyramid, and defending their end of the competition field. Our Cold Spring Harbor robotics team built and programmed the Cyberhawks robot, weighing in at close to 120 pounds, to compete on the 27-by-54-foot playing field. The robot was the only one in the competition capable of shooting Frisbees full court which gave it a competitive edge. This unique characteristic allowed them to pave their way into the finals.



- Kudos to students **Alex and Allison Grey** who have collected and distributed over 1100 sweatshirts since the inception of their **SHARE THE WARMTH** project four years ago, collecting new and gently used sweatshirts for the homeless and underprivileged. (Pictured here at the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless). Clean out your closets and keep the sweatshirt donations coming!



## CSH School District “AAA” Bond Rating Reaffirmed

Standard and Poor’s, one of the nation’s largest credit agencies, after a thorough review of the school district financial position reaffirmed the school district bond rating as AAA making Cold Spring Harbor one of only a handful of school districts nationwide and only one of several school districts in New York State to receive this top financial rating. In its report, Standard and Poor’s noted the dis-

trict’s “good financial management practices contributing to the maintenance of healthy reserves despite ongoing transfers to the capital project fund” and having a “manageable debt position with overall debt at a very low percentage of true property valuation.” While the school district has no immediate plans to consider issuing capital construction bonds in the foreseeable future this rating will ensure

that the short term interest costs for cash flow borrowing needs will be highly advantageous. This “AAA” rating was originally awarded when the school district refinanced its construction bonds in 2010 to take advantage of the favorable interest rates. That refinancing, at that time, resulted in a reduction of the interest obligations of \$2,195,461.28 for the remaining 12 years of the 2001 bond obligation.



### Stamp my Passport Please...

Through the initiative of SIT (School Improvement Team), Goosehill held its third annual five week program of *First Grade Learning Clubs*. Students receive their passports and “travel” to one of the five countries they will visit this year (Kenya, Australia, Greece, China, and Uruguay). These clubs are designed to promote respect and understanding about cultures and diversity. The students are fascinated by the videos, songs, and games they get to play in each country. Their questions are from the mouths of babes, such as, “Why do the men wear skirts and jewelry?” (while learning about Kenya), or “The Great Wall of China was built so cars could drive on it” thought one student, who soon learned it was built to protect against enemy invaders. Once they complete their visit, their passport is stamped, and they are off on their next adventure – Fun! ☐

## Fun with Science at Lloyd Harbor!



*DNA Learning Center Connection: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory DNA Learning Center educator, Erin McKechnie, visited 6th graders at Lloyd Harbor in October to discuss antibiotics. Working with Petri-dishes, the students tested the effect of Ampicillin and Kanamycin on the growth of bacteria. Both West Side and Lloyd Harbor are fortunate to have the DNA Learning Center facility instruct our*

*5th and 6th grade students for five sessions throughout the year, including a field trip to the Learning Center. Thank you to DNA Learning Center coordinator, Amanda McBrien, for organizing this interesting program with our schools.*



*Fifth graders, Alex Davis and Shane McAteer, from Mrs. O'Donnell's class, proudly display their Science Fair experiment.*

## On the Stage!

Theatrical productions were abuzz this winter season. The high school production of *OZ*, opened on the weekend of November 22nd under the direction of Helen Murdock-Prep. West Side School Theatre Association performed the *Wizard of Oz*, with fifth and sixth graders who and gave two thrilling performances amid the first snow storms of the season. West Side held their annual *Talent Show* on February 28th. The high school musical rendition of *Once upon a Mattress* (above photo) delighted audiences the weekend of February 7th. Lloyd Harbor is gearing up for the spring production of *Beauty and the Beast* March 13th-14th. And the Junior High kicks off *42nd Street* the weekend of March 28th...Bravo!



**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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**2014 School  
Budget Schedule**

**Tuesday, March 18th  
6:30 PM to 9 PM**

Special Meeting of the Board of  
Education Budget Review:  
Goosehill Primary,  
Special Education, Personnel &  
Instructional Services,  
Technology, Athletics

**Thursday, March 20th  
8:30 AM**

Board of Education  
Budget Work Session

**Tuesday, April 1  
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

Special Meeting of the Board of  
Education Budget Review:  
Lloyd Harbor, West Side, Jr./Sr.  
High School, Buildings and Grounds  
Undistributed/General  
Support/Transportation

**Tuesday, April 8th – 8 PM**

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Education  
Adoption of Proposed Budget

**Monday, May 5th – 8 PM**  
“Meet the Candidates Night”

**Tuesday, May 13th – 8 PM**  
Regular Meeting of the Board of  
Education & Annual Budget Meeting  
and Hearing Presentation of  
Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

**Tuesday, May 20th  
6 AM to 10 PM**

Annual Budget Vote  
& Board Election

**Kindergarten Orientation**

**Orientation for parents of registered kindergarten students entering school in  
September, 2014 will take place on  
Monday, May 12th at 7 PM at Goosehill Primary School.**

**Penguin Art**

*Goosehill Kindergarteners waddled, cut, and pasted some fabulous art renderings with Art Teacher Mrs. Colleen Johnson. The topic was penguins, merging curriculum and art with the study of penguins, the kids experimented with shapes, colors, backgrounds and foregrounds. Adorable!*



**Trojka Time!**

*Goosehill music students learned about Russian folksongs and soothing lullaby's like “By-ush-ki-by-u.” They transformed into horses, and pranced around harnessed to their “Trojka” or Russian sleigh or wagon. Prancing was a lively exercise to the music of Trojka, by Prokifiev. It all tied into the Olympic theme, introducing the children to some Russian culture. Molodtsom ...that’s Russian for well done!*

