

Notebook

Connetquot
Central
School District

Winter 2014

Together Toward the Future

Board of Education

Lee Kennedy, *President* • Leo R. Marinick, *Vice President* • Michael D. Kealey, *Trustee* • Kim Pepe, *Trustee* • Theodore J. Imbasciani, *Trustee*
Dr. Ronald Smith, *Interim Superintendent of Schools* • Andrea B. Wilson, *District Clerk*

Changes in Connetquot School District's Central Administration

Every year brings great change, whether a move, a graduation or a new career opportunity. Every major change, in turn, is usually accompanied by a combination of emotions — and it's no different here in the Connetquot School District. While we're excited to welcome two talented individuals to our staff, we are equally saddened to say goodbye to a beloved and respected leader.



For nearly 10 years, Dr. Peggie Staib has been a dedicated member of the Connetquot School District and the surrounding community. In January, she moved on to become the associate superintendent for education at Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Dr. Staib, who worked as our assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction since 2004, was honored at a Board of Education meeting just prior to her departure.

"I would like to thank, and express my gratitude to, the many people who have made working here such a rewarding experience," Dr. Staib

commented. "I know that the Connetquot spirit and culture I have come to know and love will continue to live on in all of you!"

While we bid farewell to Dr. Staib, we also welcomed in two administrators who are serving in new positions. Sandra Rubin replaced Dr. Staib as Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Sharon Donnelly is coming aboard as our new Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. You can read biographical information about each of them to the right.

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Sharon Donnelly



Since 2008, Sharon Donnelly has served the Connetquot School District as the Director of Accounting and District Treasurer. She earned a Master of Science in Education from Long Island University in May of 2011, a program which included an Administrative Internship, which she served here in the District. In addition, Ms. Donnelly has earned an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management from Stony Brook University; has been certified as a School District Business Leader by the NYS Education Department; is a member of the NYS Association of School Business Officials, receiving certificates through its School Business Management Institute. She is excited to continue her career in the District in her new role as the District's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations.

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Sandra Rubin



Sandra Rubin retired from Connetquot School District in 2010 after spending a total of 38 years in the District. She served as the principal of the Edith L. Slocum Elementary School for 14 years. Since her retirement, she was employed by Dowling College and St. Joseph's College as a field supervisor and seminar leader, respectively. She participates in the ESBOCES Coaching Network as a staff developer, hosting workshops in ELA Common Core, Promethean Board and Thinking Maps for many school districts. She is happy once again to serve the children of this District.

Zombies in Connetquot!

In January, the usually welcoming halls of Connetquot High School were overtaken by a horde of terrifying zombies who stalked and attacked unsuspecting humans. But don't worry; it was all for charity.

Community members from all over the District came together at CHS to complete a 5K obstacle course, all the while being chased by Connetquot students disguised as gruesome zombies. The event was a fun, and extremely creative, way to raise money for the Connetquot Foundation for the Achievement of Children (CFAC). Throughout its history, the CFAC has awarded well over \$100,000 in support of District efforts to enhance educational opportunities for our students.

The event worked like this: family members, teachers, students and community members were instructed to walk the halls of CHS until they reached their goal of five kilometers. Along the way they tackled various challenges as they tried to evade the capture of zombies who would "attack" the humans by taking one of the three flags each non-zombie contestant had strung on his or her belt. Once all three flags were captured, the participant was officially transformed into a zombie.

The CFAC is an independent not-for-profit charity that provides financial grants to teachers and District schools to purchase equipment and supplies, and to support special assemblies and training that directly benefit the students of the Connetquot School District.

Thank you to everyone, humans and zombies, for coming together to raise money for such a wonderful cause. The zombie 5K event clearly proved that doing a great thing and having a wonderful time do not have to be mutually exclusive.



Superintendent's Message

On behalf of everyone in the Connetquot School District, I'd like to wish each of you a healthy and prosperous 2014. The start of a new year is a time for optimism; with the holidays in the rear-view mirror, we look forward to the accomplishments that lie ahead. Judging by the wonderful achievements made in just the first half of the school year, and which you can read about in this newsletter, the Connetquot community has a lot to look forward to.

One cause for great optimism at the start of 2014 is the arrival of Sandra Rubin, our Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. We are extremely fortunate to have Ms. Rubin on board at the Connetquot School District, and I am very excited to be working with her. Of course, with a new arrival there often comes a bittersweet departure. On January 6, Connetquot said goodbye to Dr. Peggie Staib, who retired from the position now held by Ms. Rubin. Dr. Staib served the District diligently for nearly 10 years. Her dedication was unwavering, and her accomplishments incalculable. She will be missed, and we cannot thank her enough for her service.

Even though the 2013-2014 school year is just a few months old, our students and teachers can already lay claim to a number of terrific accomplishments. I have been consistently impressed with the level of determination and acumen displayed by all of our students. Our elementary students are distinguishing themselves among the top one percent in the country in a national math competition (see page 3), our middle school students have joined the inaugural class of their school's Tri-M Music Honor Society (see page 6), and students at all levels are demonstrating excellence in every discipline.

In a still-sluggish economy, the competition for college and employment is fierce. This reality makes it imperative that our students distinguish themselves through their endeavors, and that we provide them with an opportunity to emerge from their education as leaders. The first five months of this school year clearly indicate that we are on the right path. But the year is not yet over, and our work is not yet done. With the budget season fast approaching, I urge each of you to attend upcoming Board of Education meetings and express your views. (Please see the full schedule, including budget meetings, listed below.) By working together, we can develop a budget for the 2014-2015 school year that maintains our outstanding programs and activities while keeping taxes low. Doing so will ensure that our good work, exemplified by the wonderful successes of our students, continues next year and into the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald Smith
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Bond Referendum Vote

On March 25, 2014, school district residents will have the opportunity to vote on a Bond Referendum to provide for bus acquisition and capital improvements to buildings and sites throughout the District. The proposed capital improvements project includes improvements to the following:

- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
- Technology, communication, and security systems
- Replacement of ceilings and doors
- Drainage, sanitary, and lavatory facilities
- Masonry, paving, sidewalk, and tennis courts
- Lighting, plumbing, and building code items

The purchase of school buses is at an estimated cost of 1.8 million dollars, and the capital improvements are at an estimated cost of 14.9 million dollars. The District is proposing the use of 7.3 million dollars of available funds to decrease the amount of the bond borrowing to 9.4 million dollars. Estimated state aid on the bus acquisition and capital improvements project together with savings from recent refinancing are projected to offset the debt service on the bond issue, thereby resulting in no additional tax increase.

A Message From Your Board of Education

The afternoon light lingers a little longer, the morning frost seems not as thick. It is still definitely winter, but there are finally signs that spring is on the way. Spring signifies many things for many people, but for school districts, one thing looms above the rest: budget season. Over the coming weeks, the Board of Education and Connetquot administration will work long days to propose a budget that maintains as many of our wonderful programs as possible while limiting the impact on local taxpayers. But in the commotion of budget season, we must not let ourselves be distracted from our primary goal: ensuring outstanding educational outcomes for the more than 2,000 students who attend our schools.

Over the last few years, the Board and administration have successfully managed District finances; we have been able to provide our students with excellent programs even in the face of shrinking state and federal aid. This is no easy task, and it is rendered near impossible without your input. We urge you to make your voices heard by attending Board of Education budget meetings that will be held between now and the budget vote in May. After all, it is your hard-earned tax dollars at stake; you have the right to have a say in how they are spent. Budget meetings offer the best opportunity for you to do just that.

In addition to upholding our District programs, we have, with the approval of the community, made the necessary capital improvements without impacting future budgets. Funding and breaking ground on these projects allows us to provide our students with state-of-the-art facilities that given them an edge as they prepare for college and careers in the **21st Century**. To date, Connetquot has been able to maintain a balanced budget and excellent student programs and services despite the challenges of the tax levy cap. We are confident that this spring we will again find the optimal budgetary balance within the context of these economically challenging times.

In this newsletter, you will find clear examples of our students' accomplishments. We are immensely proud of them and of the parents and teachers who have helped them achieve at the highest levels. All of us — the Board of Education, the administration, and you, the community — are on the same team. We must continue to work together to provide the best possible future for the young people who will become the men and women of our community. Thank you for your continued support of the Connetquot School District. We look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence.

Sincerely,

The Connetquot Board of Education

Board of Education 2013-14 Meeting Schedule

Regular monthly meetings generally take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Barney Stejskal Board Room of the Administration Building, located at 780 Ocean Avenue in Bohemia, unless otherwise noted. Lee Kennedy is the Board president for the 2013-14 school year, with Leo R. Marinick serving as vice president. Serving as trustees are Michael D. Kealey, Kim Pepe and Theodore J. Imbasciani.

February 25, 2014	Business Meeting / Planning Session
March 4, 2014	Budget Meeting
March 11, 2014	Business Meeting / Budget Meeting

March 25, 2014	BOND VOTE 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. @ RMS, CHS & OBMS
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March 25, 2014	Business Meeting / Budget Meeting
April 8, 2014	Business Meeting
April 22, 2014	Planning Session / Budget Adoption
April 23, 2014	Special Meeting: BOCES Budget Vote
May 13, 2014	Business Meeting / Public Hearing @ SAS

May 20, 2014	BUDGET VOTE 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. @ RMS, CHS & OBMS
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May 27, 2014	Business Meeting / Planning Session
June 10, 2014	Business Meeting
June 24, 2014	Business Meeting / Planning Session

WINNERS & ACHIEVERS

Cherokee Math Students Rank Number One in New York; 15 in Nation!

Cherokee Street Elementary School fifth graders in Cathy Mongiello's math class came in first place in all of New York State in the national *Sumdog Math* competition. Out of the 3,500 schools from across the U.S. that participated, Cherokee's students ranked in the top one percent, at number 15 nationwide.

On December 19, Cherokee Street Principal Bridgette Wilson joined members of the Board of Education at a ceremony to congratulate the students for their incredible accomplishment. Certificates were presented to all students. Participating in the ceremony were Board Vice President Leo R. Marinick, trustees Ted Imbasciani and Kim Pepe, and math chairperson Bethanie Rizzo.

The *Sumdog Math* is a national online math and reading platform that utilizes a method known as *gamification* to help students improve their math and reading skills, as well as promote fluency. *Gamification* is the use of game thinking and game mechanics in a non-game context to assist in the solving of problems. Sumdog holds national competitions to allow students to put what they have learned up against classrooms all over the country.

Congratulations to Cathy Mongiello, and especially to the Cherokee students. Their accomplishment is a wonderful demonstration of the quality of teachers and education in the Connetquot School District.



Saying Thanks at Sycamore



Respect and admiration for the men and women in our armed forces is not something to be observed only on one or two dedicated holidays; it should be a year-round focus for all Americans. After their study on international cultures and how they relate to our own, third graders at **Sycamore Avenue Elementary School** decided to make American-flag inspired "freedom loom" bracelets for our soldiers.

The desire to do something special for our troops came about after students had spent multiple classes learning about cultures from around the world, which included reading several books. The extensive reading opened up dialogue among the students, particularly about the freedoms America affords that other nations simply don't have. The children realized that many of these freedoms are a result of the sacrifices made by our soldiers, and they wanted to pay them back in some small way. The third graders decided to make bracelets, which they called freedom looms, and write letters of gratitude; they were so motivated and excited to tackle this project that they voluntarily stayed late after school to finish it.

The project demonstrated initiative, creativity and appreciation by our students. Congratulations to the thoughtful third graders.

Governor Cuomo Commends Board of Education

As part of his *School Board Recognition Week* initiative, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo praised the Connetquot School District Board of Education, along with other school boards across the state, for its efforts on behalf of the citizens of their districts. At a ceremony honoring the Board, Interim Superintendent Dr. Ronald Smith and Assistant Superintendent Robert Annucci read the state's proclamation and distributed certificates of appreciation to Board President Lee Kennedy; Vice President Leo Marinick; and trustees Michael Kealey, Kim Pepe and Ted Imbasciani.

Held from October 28 through November 1, *School Board Recognition Week* was observed by over 700 school districts throughout the state. Special observances and activities were held over the course of the week to show gratitude for the immense contribution that school boards make to public schools and the communities they serve.



UPK Program Grant

Connetquot Central School District expects to receive a grant for Universal Pre-Kindergarten. This grant will allow children who will be four years of age by December 1, 2014, to attend a half-day pre-kindergarten program for a year at a selected agency within the School District.

■ Information and Application

Please call Mrs. Sandra Rubin (631) 244-2215 x3758 for information, or visit our District website at www.ccsdli.org for directions and forms.

■ Application Deadline

All applications must be received in the District office no later than May 21, 2014 at 3 p.m.

■ Selection Process

Students will be selected by lottery on June 2, 2014. This is not a first come, first served basis.

■ Transportation

Parents must provide transportation for their children.

What's Happening in Our Schools...

Bella Italia Celebrated at Bosti

A rich Italian heritage is evident all over the tri-state area. It's important for students to have an understanding of Italian tradition and customs, to have an appreciation for what they bring to our cities and towns. Students at **Edward J. Bosti Elementary School** recently had a great opportunity to explore this wonderful culture by taking a virtual tour of *bella Italia*, or beautiful Italy. Presented by Connetquot's ESL/LOTE Chair Kim Licato, CHS Italian language teacher Kirstin Fusco, and Bosti's C-Quest advisors Lisa Manzo and Kevin Keane, the virtual tour taught the children about Italian food, fashion, politics, commerce, geography and language. The students were joined by CHS Italian language students, as they sang songs and played traditional games representative of Italy. The virtual tour was an informative and fun way for students to learn about a culture that is deeply ingrained in their local communities. By studying Italy, students gained a valuable new perspective on the Italian traditions that are all around them.



Raising Money for Children in Need

Students at **Cherokee Street Elementary School** consider themselves global citizens. They understand that, while they may be New Yorkers and Americans, they are also human beings, connected in partnership with people all over the world. This belief was evident last fall, when Cherokee fifth graders rallied to collect money for the United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, as part of their study of human rights. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, the young students raised \$750, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by UNICEF. The money will help underprivileged children all over the world; Cherokee teacher Kristine Abbinanti explained to the students that the money may be used to provide clean water for a village or vaccinations for children who need them. The charity displayed by the Cherokee fifth graders demonstrates a philosophy that Connetquot educators work hard to instill: we are all in this together.



Duffield Hosts Parent University to Discuss Common Core

In an effort to keep the line of communication between parents and teachers as open and accessible as possible, **Helen B. Duffield Elementary School** Principal Lisa Farrell held a *Parent University* in December. At the seminar, Ms. Farrell hosted a frank discussion about the Common Core curriculum, its implementation and benefits, and the concerns parents have regarding it. Close to 50 parents attended the event. Ms. Farrell demonstrated the value of the Common Core in multiple ways. She had the parents participate in a typical third grade Common Core module using District resources. She clearly demonstrated how a non-Common Core lesson that had been taught for years could be very easily modified to align with the new state standards. Principal Farrell also demonstrated the ways individual teachers can adapt the lessons to their classes. After the principal's discussion, questions were opened up to the floor. The parents who attended Duffield's presentation were very pleased with the result, and were happy to have some of their main concerns about the Common Core addressed. Principal Farrell hopes that additional Parent Universities on a range of subjects will be held in the future.



Nutrition in Focus at Slocum

Of all the New Year's resolutions that exist, perhaps none is more common than improving personal diet. Fortunately, students at **Edith L. Slocum Elementary School** are getting an early education on how to eat right; when they're adults, they can save their resolutions for something more fun, such as traveling or reading more. Fourth graders at Slocum were recently visited by professional fitness trainer Josh Manda. Using his years of training and experience, Mr. Manda taught the students about good nutrition, and he put them through a fun exercise program. He had the children work in teams to play a variety of food games. The fourth graders enjoyed trying an assortment of healthy snack foods. (Although the seaweed chips were not loved by all!) Mr. Manda's visit was also covered by FiOS1 and is available on their website. The day was a great way to teach children an important lesson: they get one body, it's best to take care of it with a healthy, nutritious diet.

Second Annual Dancing Classrooms Event at Idle Hour

Earlier this year, fourth grade students at Idle Hour Elementary School participated in the second annual Dancing Classroom's program. Students in Mr. Brennan's and Ms. Griffith's classes learned a variety of ballroom dances standards, including the Foxtrot, Tango, Merengue, Swing, Waltz and Salsa. Students in the program practiced diligently; twice a week during physical education classes, both classes worked extremely hard to learn the moves to each dance. They also were taught how to be a respectful dance partner. The culminating event consisted of both classes showing off their hard work and fine dance moves to their parents and grandparents, who joined the students for the final dance. Prior to the final dance, each participating student reflected on the program by writing about how Dancing Classrooms made them feel, and several students were chosen to read their essays to the audience.



Books Connect John Pearl Students to Children in Europe

Good books can often be the connection between divergent societies. A well-written story is a well-written story no matter what language it's in. Third graders at **John Pearl Elementary School** learned this first hand when they participated in the international program *School Libraries-Doorways to Life* with the Anton Blobocnik Primary School in Postojna, Slovenia. Led by John Pearl's library media specialist Karen Deaner, students created bookmarks that illustrated the landmarks and culture of their community on one side, and highlights from their favorite books of the year on the other. Then they exchanged bookmarks with the students in Slovenia. The *School Libraries-Doorways to Life* gave students an exciting opportunity to interact with children from Europe, and it supported New York's ELA Common Core module one. The Anton Blobocnik Primary School is located in the Republic of Slovenia, a small Eastern European nation that borders with Austria, Italy, Croatia and Hungary. At just over two million people, Slovenia has a smaller population than Long Island.



Winter Celebrated at Sycamore Avenue

Winter in the Northeast may not be many people's idea of paradise, but children at **Sycamore Avenue Elementary School** are finding fun and creative ways to enjoy what the season has to offer. Last month, a few days before the official start of winter, Sycamore kindergarten students joined teachers and parent volunteers for a special morning of seasonal activities. The day featured many festive activities that, in addition to being entertaining, also taught children about the importance of teamwork while allowing them to develop their artistic sides. The kindergartners were divided into small groups to create holiday cards, play a winter version of bingo and a variation of the classic game of pin the tail on the donkey (with a snowman taking the donkey's place) and make costumes. In between the activities, children enjoyed holiday treats and hot chocolate.



Having Fun and Giving Back at OBMS

Many of us would love to go to work in our pajamas, but unfortunately, most workplaces frown upon the practice. It's the same for students; even school districts that don't issue uniforms don't usually allow children to come to class in their night time clothes. On the Friday before holiday break at **Oakdale-Bohemia Middle School** however, students were allowed to wear their pajamas, but there was a catch: they had to bring an additional pair to donate. It was all part of the school's Bring a Pair, Wear a Pair program. Students who brought in at least one pair of new pajamas would be entitled to wear their own pajamas to class on the last day of school before the holiday vacation. The clothes were then donated to a local homeless shelter. The program allowed the students to have a little fun before the break and reach out to people in need in their community.



Dream, Dare, Do! at RMS

Last fall, students in grades six through eight at **Ronkonkoma Middle School** gathered in the Alice Schaefer Auditorium to view a film titled *Dream, Dare, Do!* Presented by the Camfel Production Team, *Dream, Dare, Do!* delivered a powerful message: it's imperative that students have dreams and develop a plan to accomplish them, even in the face of bullying or peer pressure. It was a particularly resonant message for middle schoolers. The film encouraged students to "clarify dreams, look clearly at obstacles, and, through hard work and determination, turn their dreams into reality." Students learned powerful methods for dealing with pressure, stress and fear, and were taught how to set realistic, short-term goals. The film also exposed various forms of bullying and provided healthy strategies for dealing with them. One of the more important messages stressed by the film was the need for students to take responsibility for their actions and not

blame others. The film was well received by the students, who were noticeably moved by the message it presented. The event was a part of Connetquot's *United We Stand for a Drug Free and Anti-Bully Community* campaign.

Ceremony Honors CHS Foreign Language Students

In the ever-changing demographics in the United States, a bilingual individual has a distinct advantage. Being fluent in two or more languages makes a person more hireable and opens doors to divergent global experiences. In late November of last year, Connetquot School District Foreign Language Chairperson Kim Licato announced the induction of 111 **Connetquot High School** students into the National Foreign Language Honor Society. This large number clearly demonstrates that CHS students are taking the value of a foreign language very seriously. At a ceremony held to congratulate the inductees and their families, the students took the National Foreign Language Honor Society oaths and were presented with certificates. The CHS chamber orchestra provided welcoming music for all in attendance. Guest speaker Casey Wiley, a Connetquot alum, told the students about the tremendous opportunities her foreign language studies opened up to her. Congratulations to the 2013 Connetquot High School National Foreign Language Honor Society inductees.



MUSIC NEWS

Ronkonkoma Middle School Hosts First-Ever Tri-M Music Honor Society Inductions

At the end of November, 42 student musicians were inducted into the inaugural class of RMS' Tri-M Society. RMS Assistant Principal Joseph Licato welcomed family and friends at an induction ceremony held in the Alice R. Schaefer Auditorium. It was a powerful event reflecting the excitement and importance of the occasion.

Prior to the inductions, the Tri-M Society student officers recited their pledges, making a commitment to support the interests of music education. Kristin Hansen and Vincent Fasano were named president and vice president, respectively; Alexa Dowling was named secretary; Rebecca Moulton, treasurer; and Natalie Parla, historian. Present at the ceremony were RMS music teachers, Connetquot School District Board of Education Vice President Leo Marinick, and Tri-M Music Honor Society advisor Nicole White.

District Director of Music Education Jon-Michael Lasher congratulated the inductees, saying: "The [Tri-M Music Honor Society] promotes student leadership, and these students are the future leaders in their music department, school and community."



Congratulations to the newly inducted members of the Ronkonkoma Middle School Tri-M Honor Society:

Alan Abeau
Anike Aylward
Eban Boerner
Gabrielle Cascio
Victoria Chironno
Diana Danielsson
Daniel Darress
Catriona DiNero
Alexa Dowling

Matthew Downing
Marina Duszak
Darren Dutton
Olivia Esposito
Vincent Fasano
Emily Fieseler
Jesse Freitag
Lindsey Geoghegan
Anna Grottola

Victoria Guevara
Kristin Hansen
Lia Hauser
Karly Hokenson
Sarah Jablonski
Jaclyn Kateridge
Ever Levesque
Richard Lope

Mikayla Mackin
Thomas Mahon
Nicholas Mannino
Nicholas Mazzaro
Camryn Miller
Nicholas Mott
Rebecca Moulton
Natalie Parla

Jordan Randazzo
Thomas Schmidt
Nicole Schuppert
Justin Shah
Alexis Smith
Katy Smair
Matthew Triolo
Gianna Waldron

Connetquot High School Holiday Concert at Arbors of Islandia



Members of Connetquot's National Music Honor Society recently paid a visit to the Arbors Assisted Living facility in Islandia to spread some holiday cheer. The students, led by choral teacher Beth Owens, entertained the residents with an array of traditional holiday music.



Athletic News

Connetquot Athletes Make College Commitments



As the fall season wound down, Connetquot High School Principal Gregory Murtha and Athletic Director Mark Dellecave announced that 11 CHS students signed letters of intent to further their athletic careers at the collegiate level. The announcement came at a ceremony honoring the students, who were joined by their proud parents.

Girls lacrosse coach Sal Piscitelli summed up the sentiments of all in attendance; “All these athletes are an inspiration to the young athletes in the Connetquot community,” said Mr. Piscitelli. “They have been a great source of pride to the coaches and to their families. They will be missed, but we are confident in their success as they move on to the next level.”

Congratulations to the following students

Girls Lacrosse

Joanna Napolitano (Dominican College)
Megan Smith (Tampa University)
Anna Wilbert (Franklin Pierce College)
Tiffany Zullo (Stony Brook University)
Torry Zullo (Stony Brook University)

Boys Lacrosse

Charles Crowley (St. John’s University)
Christopher Seebach (Cortland University)

Volleyball

Katie Baker (Fairmont State University)

Cross Country & Track

Erin Melly (Columbia University)

Baseball

Matthew Buckshaw (Stony Brook University)
Dwayne Page Jr. (Dowling College)

Third Annual Alumni Classic Celebrates Six Decades of CHS Basketball

Connetquot’s annual Alumni Classic represents basketball at its most pure: camaraderie, competition and love for the game. Nearly 30 former Connetquot players were joined by an energetic crowd of family, friends and community members for the third iteration of the Alumni Classic in December.

The bond among these alumni players was profoundly evident; but no less so than the passion they displayed on the court. The Alumni Classic was a hard-fought contest, each athlete giving his all. With no time left on the clock, 2004 alum Jason Pristupa went to the foul line and coolly sank two free throws to send the game into overtime as his elated teammates cheered. The intensity of all players spoke volumes of their character: always committed to excellence for its own sake.

At half time, Classic organizer Coach Bob Drzal announced that Connetquot’s class of 1992 team had been named team of the decade, and a photo was added to the school’s wall of fame. After the conclusion of the contest, many players met at a local restaurant to continue reminiscing.

Everyone in attendance greatly enjoyed the Alumni Classic, but none more than the competitors themselves. Through their love of the game and fondness for one another, the athletes provided a stirring example of sport at its best. Congratulations to all those who participated in the Alumni Classic!



Pesticide Neighbor-Notification Law

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relationship, faculty and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Connetquot Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remaining unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application;
- Antimicrobial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of EPA-designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA-designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less, when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects, including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the Pesticide Notification form, which can be obtained at any of our schools' main offices, and return it to the Connetquot Central School District of Islip, Plant & Facilities Office, 780 Ocean Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716. Attn: Pesticide Notification.

Please feel free to contact Robert Hochstein, the Connetquot Central School District of Islip's Pesticide Representative, at (631) 244-2215, ext. 3400, for further information on these requirements. You may also fax your request for further information to Mr. Hochstein at (631) 244-2284.

Additional notices will be included in **The Notebook** throughout the year.

Parents of Children Entering Kindergarten September 2014

Registration for kindergartners entering in September 2014 will be held from March 10-14, 2014 at all elementary schools.

Only children who will be five years of age on or before December 1, 2014, will be eligible for enrollment.

The following verification form was sent to parents of children attending the elementary schools in our District.

IF YOU ARE A PARENT OF A KINDERGARTEN ELIGIBLE CHILD AND DID NOT RECEIVE THIS LETTER, please complete the form below and return it to your elementary school as soon as possible. If you have questions concerning which elementary zone you live in, please call the District's Central Registration Office at 244-2215 ext. 3538.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION VERIFICATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

My child's legal name is: LAST: _____ FIRST: _____ MIDDLE: _____

My child's birth date is: _____ () Female () Male

My address is: (STREET) _____

(CITY / TOWN / ZIP CODE) _____

My telephone number is: _____

School Attending: _____

I plan to send my child to a private or parochial school in 2014-15: () No () Yes

My family has other children attending the Connetquot Schools: () No () Yes

If yes, please list other children already in school:

Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

Important Contact Information

Connetquot Central School District

CHILD ADVOCATE

Barbara Brodsky • (631) 589-5339

AHERA Management Annual Notification

This notification is to inform you that the AHERA Management Plan is now available for your review at the Office of Plant and Facilities. This plan shows the location and description of all known asbestos-containing building materials in our School District. Please contact Robert Hochstein, the District's AHERA designee, at (631) 244-2212, ext. 3400, for any information or to arrange an appointment for review of the plan.