



WINTER 2011

The Beacon of Hope

EAST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

At the Head of Their Class

The East Islip Guidance Department and members of administration recently announced and honored East Islip High School's Class of 2011 Top Ten students. These high achievers, some within mere decimal points of each other, all accepted the educational challenge and have proven to be model citizens among their peers. "You are a shining example for the East Islip community," Director of Guidance Israel Malinowitz said of the group. The students were honored at a breakfast, where each of their final ranks were disclosed. Out of a class of 361 students, these are the Top Ten for the Class of 2011:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Virginia Dantis | 5. Victoria Amato | 9. Alicia Elliott |
| 2. Evan Kaplan | 6. Jeffrey Wong | 10. Tara Friel |
| 3. Monica Lobo | 7. Mathew Roth | |
| 4. Julie Fishman | 8. Adam Brigandi | |



"I hope that the experience of being an East Islip student was worth all the hard work," Superintendent Wendell Chu said in his speech to students. "You all should be very proud of your accomplishments." Congratulations to each of these exceptional students, their parents and their teachers.

High School Launches Business Academy



As an expansion of the High School's existing Career Academy, this year the school was able to launch a Business Academy. Funded through the Vatea Carl Perkins Grant, the class consists of 25 twelfth-grade students who have the unique opportunity of starting and operating their own virtual business. Done through a Virtual Enterprise Program, students apply and interview for various positions within the company they create.

This year's class, advised by Business and Economics teacher Ray Babinsky, has decided to create a wireless company called Mobile Revolution.

Each day when students report to class, they are actually reporting to more of an "office." Thanks to furniture donated with the help of John Caputo and Andrew Corrado from Capital One Bank, the class has cubicles, management offices and a conference table. The CEO of Mobil Revolution, student Alex Baier, is in charge of the business' daily operations and assigns tasks and projects to his staff, while being guided by Mr. Babinsky.

East Islip is one of the first districts on Long Island to implement this type of program and is the first to integrate it into a Career Academy.



District Receives "A" on Audit Report

The East Islip School District received a very positive audit report for the year ending June 30, 2010, which was presented at the October 12th Board of Education meeting. The auditing firm of Cullen & Danowski, LLP gave an unqualified opinion, which is the highest grade the district can receive on its financial operations. The auditors noted that the district was compliant in all areas and in stable financial condition.

They cautioned the Board and administration of future challenges facing all districts across the state, including an increase in pension and health insurance costs, as well as a potential loss of state aid due to the discontinuation of federal stimulus funds in 2011-12.

"The excellent results reported are a testament to the tighter controls implemented in our business office and improved efficiencies in our financial operations and reporting," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Carl Fraser.

2 Board of Education Message

Kim G. Phillips, Trustee



For the last several years, my family has been heating the downstairs of our home with a wood burning fireplace. That's not to say we are free from our oil burner. No, a few loads of laundry or some dirty dishes

in the sink have a way of keeping our burner busy throughout the day. But, there is something satisfying about producing our own heat when the temperature outside is freezing. And, not surprisingly, it does save money on our oil bill.

When it comes to the business of running a school district, there are similarities to our family's fuel usage. As you know, East Islip is not alone in its reliance on state aid to offset expenses in order to combat our community's tax burden. Pundits will tell you that Long Island does not "get its fair share" of state aid.

I will not argue with these people, but, like you, I've been hearing about "fair share" for too many years with limited results. That said, several of our state representatives have been vigilant in their efforts to bring more dollars back to Long Island, but if there is scarce aid money, what's to be done?

Our new Governor has re-proposed a 2% cap (or rate of inflation, whichever is less) on government and schools in order to ease the property tax burden. This has caused a general alarm throughout the state as concerns mount about escalating costs for insurance, pensions, and mandates. The media is already reporting the doomsday budgets that some of our neighbors are considering.

We, too, are deeply concerned about the impact a tax cap and increased costs will have on our ability to deliver a quality education to our children. However, we must continue

to do our part in order to be fiscally responsible to the community, yet move forward. To that end, we have trimmed operating costs through careful preparation and multiple negotiations. Additionally, we have thoughtfully proposed spending plans for advancements in technology and instruction that seek to minimize the financial impact.

We will not stop here. In the next several months, you will be hearing about the District's new Strategic Planning Committee as well as other changes. We believe the business of education in East Islip needs to be retooled and we are confident that new ideas will be generated which can be meaningfully incorporated into our future.

Please consider joining us on this journey. Attend School Board meetings or submit your ideas to members of the Board via the District's website. Don't stand by idle... throw another log on the fire.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish you the very best for 2011.

Superintendent's Message

Wendell Chu



As we begin a new year, we find that changes in our state government made through the election process in November are coming to pass in Albany this month. A new Governor and the return of control of the state

senate to the Republican party will invariably bring different perspectives on the plan of action for New York. Governor Cuomo has talked about a 2% cap on property tax levy increases. Organizations like the New York State School Boards Association and the New York State Conference of Mayors have come out against the idea of any type of property tax levy cap. The real crux of the matter is that no one wants to raise taxes and everyone has tried to reduce expenditures and costs through a variety of methods including cooperative purchasing, shared services, functional consolidation, and greater productivity. These measures have succeeded in reducing growth, but not in dealing with some of the fundamental issues in state, regional, local, and school financial matters.

We have steadily increasing pension, health insurance, and fuel costs. These expenditures hit every level of the public sector. Although the legislature has tried to address the pension issue with a new retirement tier, the savings from this effort will not come quickly. Health insurance and fuel costs have not been capped. Salaries are the single largest area of the budget for all levels of government. What holds true for us in Suffolk County is the high cost of living and the lack of any regional cost adjustments in calculations or payments from the state. What's good for Buffalo, Oriskany, Elmira, Old Forge, Deposit, and Middletown is good for Long Island. In schools, another area of steady increases has been for special education. The students in special education are our most vulnerable population and they need the support they are getting. That support comes at a high price because it is very labor intensive. I don't think this is an area that we can really restrict growth in.

What is the answer? I don't think there is a simple solution, but I know that any solution must be tied to revenues. I believe

that if a property tax levy cap is passed, it should be linked directly to a maintenance of effort on the part of the state. A 2% property tax levy cap should include a provision that allows the levy to increase by that amount plus the amount that state aid is reduced. For example in East Islip, our state aid revenues declined from 2008-09 to 2009-10 by about \$450,000. The projected state aid revenues in 2010-11 were estimated to be \$1,881,052 less than the previous year based on the Governor's executive budget. Now that the figures are almost finalized, state aid is actually lower than that. These declines in state aid would be included in our allowable tax levy cap as part of a maintenance of effort clause. This would have allowed our budget to have increased by \$3,053,133, or if we kept the same budget, we would have been credited with a reduction in the tax levy by 0.55%. The real story is that property taxes are connected by both expenditures and revenues. In East Islip as in many other communities, expenditures have been reduced, but so has the effort of the state to support public education. Any property tax levy cap must require the state to maintain its efforts to ensure a free appropriate public education in New York.

Asst. Superintendent's Message

Alise Becker-Santa (Instruction)



Happy New Year to all! In order to be most effective in meeting the needs of our students now and in the future, it is important to review our educational programs and methods we use to prepare our students for the demands of college and careers after high school. We must

meet all mandates established by New York State and continually review current trends and programs in education.

As you may have seen in the news earlier this school year, as a cost saving measure, the State has already decided to eliminate all foreign language Regents assessments, except for the Spanish, Italian and French, as well as foreign language proficiency exams, and has eliminated the 5th and 8th grade social studies assessments. Despite these changes, a district's accountability and need for accurate state reporting remains stronger than ever.

During the next few years, the State is seeking to revise the format of assessments in ELA and mathematics. We can also expect that the exams our students take will include a technological component – in the manner in which they are administered and in respect to the curriculum and its technological integration. At the district level, we have been keeping abreast of these changes and are discussing ways in which we can help to better prepare our students for both the digital age in which we live and the proposed State level changes.

Considering the changes the State Education Department is making, and our need to improve the technology to which our students have access, we are in the midst of merging two departments in our district. We will be combining our technology department with our data center. This opportunity was made possible when our Technology Coordinator assumed a position in another district and by the anticipated retirement of the person who acts as our Chief Information

Officer (CIO). We will search for an Administrator for Student Data Services, Assessment and Technology. This consolidation will better serve our current needs and help us to prepare for future requirements. It will also assist our district to develop and carry through our plans to most effectively and efficiently use our current and future technology investments.

With a goal of having this position in place by year end, we also expect to have the needed resources and expertise to open the "Parent Portal" of our student management software. The "Parent Portal" will provide online access of middle school and high school student progress reports and report cards to our parents, which will have the potential to minimize and ultimately replace "paper" reporting in the near future.

I will continue to work diligently with the other members of our administrative team and our Board of Education to find ways to optimize the services our schools and our students receive while being mindful of budgetary impact. I hope to see many of you at future Board of Education meetings, work sessions and school events that highlight and celebrate our students' and community's successes and accomplishments.



When Dreams Become Reality

FTK GRANT RECIPIENTS CUT RIBBONS ON COMPLETED PROJECTS

Last spring, East Islip's FTK presented grant monies to each of the schools in the district. Timber Point and JFK were selected as the \$10,000 recipients, and the East Islip High School received \$20,000 for renovations to its courtyards for student use. Each of the remaining schools received \$5,000 with a total of \$60,000 being donated by the FTK to help the schools achieve their "dream" projects that the district's budget would not otherwise accommodate.

John F. Kennedy Elementary School received \$10,000 from the "Build A Dream" grant. JFK utilized their grant money to build a cafetorium, a combined cafeteria and auditorium, which will enable students to put on plays or shows for a large audience, as well as provide a stage area for workshops and special events. At a PTA meeting on November 1, Principal Aileen O'Rourke and members of the FTK cut the ribbon on the school's newest addition.

On November 3, FTK again had the honor of seeing the finished product of their efforts, as the East Islip High School unveiled their renovated courtyard. "When I first came to the High School, this was really not a usable courtyard," Principal Bill Brennen said in his speech. "FTK had a vision of making this a functional part of our High School, and we now have a space that our students and teachers can enjoy." Pictured above is the

transformation of the courtyard, which was accomplished in large part due to community companies who volunteered their services and expertise to help make the project come together. "A project like this really speaks to the fabric of our community," Mr. Brennen said of the FTK working with community volunteers.

December 8 marked another special day for the FTK, as they cut the ribbon on Timber Point Elementary School's LIFE Skills Room. The room features a small kitchen, books and a sewing machine station, which will provide teachers with the ability to conduct cooking, sewing, music, literature and cultural studies lessons, all within one room. The theme of the room is LIFE - Learning Is Forever...Everywhere, and multicultural flags hang in unity from the ceiling. "FTK's Build A Dream Grant has truly supported our ability to create an exceptional environment for learning," said Principal Margaret Harper of the new room, appropriately titled the FTK LIFE Skills Room. "The room brings students, parents, staff and community members together to help everyone learn and appreciate all cultures and all people. It will provide our students with enriched opportunities to be immersed in a variety of cultural traditions."

"Without your support of the FTK, we would not be able to do any of this," FTK representative Pat Diesu said in her speech at one of the ribbon cuttings. "Thank you."





NEWS AROUND OUR E

CONNETQUOT ELEMENTARY

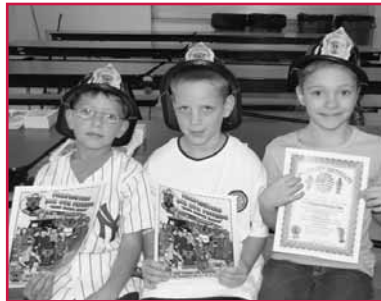
STOP, DROP AND ROLL WITH FIRE SAFETY

In honor of National Fire Safety Week, elementary students throughout the East Islip School District were visited by their local fire department.

At Connetquot Elementary School, the Islip Terrace Fire Department (ITFD) treated students to a simulated fire rescue, along with some very important tips for fire safety. Students were urged to help their parents check smoke detectors and rehearsed “stop, drop and roll” tactics with the professionals.

Following the presentation, the children received an in-depth tour of two different fire trucks – an engine truck and a heavy rescue truck – and learned their use. As a reminder of the importance of fire safety, each child received a plastic fire fighter hat, crayons, and a special fire safety coloring and activity booklet to share with parents.

Fourth and fifth-grade students at Connetquot received a special opportunity to actually visit the ITFD firehouse. Located directly across the street, students toured the building, learned additional fire safety tips, and, as a group, held a hose and put out an imaginary fire.



RUTH C. KINNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MLK Art Program



Front row (L-R): Mia Castillo, Brandon Palomba, Olivia Pena, and Emily Gargano; back row (L-R): Luke Buquicchio, Mikayla Kneisel, Sophia Stryjewski, and Katie Schock. Absent from the photo, but also selected, is Victoria Tong. Victoria's artwork is being held by Ms. Belfiore (back, center).

Second-grade students at Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative art program. To participate, students selected words that encompassed each of the six principles of non-violence and then created backgrounds for their artwork with those words. Art teacher Dana Belfiore recently selected the work of nine students for display in Albany for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January. The exhibit will be titled “Saluting Greatness: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”

TIMBER POINT ELEMENTARY

The Coast is Clear!

Fourth graders in Mrs. Giordano's class at Timber Point Elementary School participated in the International Beach Coastal Cleanup. In October, the class spent a couple of hours each day for several days picking up trash along the shoreline of Heckscher State Park. The bags and gloves used by students were donated by Keep Islip Clean (KIC). In addition to removing debris such as broken balloons, glass and cigarette butts from the shoreline, students took their efforts a step further by raising money to purchase ash cans for the park. Recently, KIC Director Nancy Cochran came to pick up the donated ash cans and presented the class with a special certificate of appreciation for their efforts. “You've actually saved a number of animals from your work,” Ms. Cochran said to students. “I'm very proud of you.”

Ms. Cochran is pictured with teacher Mrs. Giordano and her fourth-grade class.



JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clothing Drive Benefits Local Family

John F. Kennedy Elementary School recently held a districtwide clothing drive to benefit third-grade student Taylor Ryan, who has been diagnosed with a rare disease called histiocytosis, and her family. The clothing drive, held through A&E Clothing Corp., raised money to assist Taylor's family with her medical bills. The family received money for every pound of clothing that was donated. The donated clothing was given to families in need in other countries. In total, the East Islip

community donated 18,496 pounds of clothing to the cause. Pictured (L-R): PTA President Pat Blair, student Taylor Ryan, Danielle Chiappetta, Board Trustee Kim G. Phillips, PTA members Sue Kavanagh and Lisa Christy, and JFK Principal Aileen O'Rourke.



New Café Opens at Timber Point Elementary



Faculty and students of Timber Point Elementary School joined together for the opening of their brand new Book Nook Café. The transformation of the cafeteria was a year and a half in the making. Mrs. Ilene Mauner, a parent of one of the students, coordinated with Principal Margaret Harper to create a place where staff and students can hold conversations about literature. All students took part in a contest to rename the cafeteria. The title “Book Nook Café” was conceived by Natalia Lozinski, a fourth grader at Timber Point Elementary.

“We want this to be a place where teachers and students can come together, creating a ‘teachable moment’ which can be linked to the literacy program. The students will learn that at any time, wherever they are, reading can be fun and

shared,” noted Principal Mrs. Harper.

Board Trustee Kim Phillips and Superintendent of East Islip Schools Wendell Chu, as well as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Personnel Alise Becker-Santa and Assistant Superintendent for Business Carl Fraser, were present for the unveiling. Contest winner Natalia Lozinski was selected to cut the ribbon to officially open the café. Mrs. Harper explained, “The Book Nook Café is our way of celebrating literacy and learning here at Timber Point.”



Honoring All Who Served

Students and staff districtwide paid tribute to local veterans for Veterans Day. Each of the elementary schools held special ceremonies honoring their family members and local heroes in the community. All of the programs included special musical performances and patriotic songs.

As part of the school’s 9th annual Veterans Day Celebration at Timber Point Elementary School, veterans from the local East Islip AMVET Post 18 and veterans of families in the school were honored with a small ceremony and light breakfast. “Our hearts are full of gratitude and pride as we remember and honor the many men and women who have served our country,” Principal Margaret Harper said in her welcome speech. “Thank you for your service.” The AMVETS held their annual presentation of the Folding of the Flag, and all veterans had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the community and

give a brief background of their service to our country.

Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School honored veterans in their school community with patriotic numbers from the school’s fourth and fifth-grade chorus and select violin and band ensembles. At the conclusion of the performances, several students shared writing samples with the veterans in a presentation entitled “Veterans: We Honor You.” Parents, visitors and honored guests were able to take a “gallery walk,” where students hung photos and descriptions of the veterans in their lives.

Connetquot Elementary School held a unique competition, in which all fourth-grade students were judged on their ability to recite the “Fifty Nifty United States” song. All students received a special certificate for their memorization of the song and celebrated with a flag-shaped cake with their local veterans.

In their new cafetorium, John F. Kennedy



Bob Symonds, an Army veteran, and his granddaughter, second-grade student Samantha Seibert, during the breakfast at JFK.

Elementary School hosted “Bring a Vet to School Day,” where students were able to invite veterans for a breakfast celebration. While students and their guests bonded, their peers performed various patriotic medleys. “Most of you said ‘thank you’ to us as you walked in today,” said JFK’s PTA President Pat Blair. “But really, we are here to thank you.”



Members of the Ruth C. Kinney string ensemble performed for their veterans.



At Connetquot Elementary School veterans looked on as students sang the “Fifty Nifty United States.”



Students at Timber Point Elementary salute veterans and guests.

Lacrosse Stars Sign Letters of Intent

Four East Islip High School seniors recently signed National Letters of Intent to continue their lacrosse playing careers in college. Family members, school administrators, and team coaches recently joined students Nicolas Ancona, Tyler Begley, Chris Joyce and Kevin Wendel as they officially signed commitment letters to play lacrosse at the college level. Each of the students received athletic scholarships by signing letters of intent. According to lacrosse coach Joseph Ancona, "These four players have all been part of our varsity program for the past three years. Under their leadership, we anticipate a terrific season this year. Pre-season, we are already ranked fifth in the county." Nicolas plans to continue his career at Towson University, Tyler at Hofstra University, Chris at Drexel University, and Kevin at the U.S. Naval Academy. Congratulations to each of these exceptional student-athletes.



Athletic Director Steve Restivo, Nicolas Ancona, Kevin Wendel, Tyler Begley, Chris Joyce and lacrosse coach Joseph Ancona.

Three Seniors Named Commended Students

Three East Islip High School seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. High School Principal Bill Brennen presented Letters of Commendation to Julie S. Fishman, Robert W. Husfeldt and Evan Kaplan from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program.

Approximately 34,000 students throughout the nation were recognized for their exceptional academic promise and presented with this award. Although they will not continue in the 2010 competition for National Merit Scholarships, being named a Commended Student recognizes that these seniors placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011 competition by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



Pictured (L-R): Superintendent of Schools Wendell Chu, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Alise Becker-Santa, Evan Kaplan, Julie S. Fishman, Robert W. Husfeldt, Director of Guidance Israel Malinowitzer, and Principal Bill Brennen.

New Director of Humanities

At the October Board of Education meeting, the Board welcomed the district's new Director of Humanities, Sarajeon Anderson. With more than ten years of education experience and ten years of business experience, Mrs. Anderson joins East Islip from the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District, where she served as the K-12 Supervisor for Social Studies, Business, and Family and Consumer Science. In that role, she was responsible for the districtwide curriculum, instruction, supervision and evaluation, instructional technology, assessment, professional development, data analysis and budgets. Mrs. Anderson received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and her Master's in Secondary Education from Dowling College. She earned her School District Administration certification from SUNY Stony Brook.



East Islip Soccer Player Named All-American

East Islip High School junior Cari Roccaro was recently named to the 2010 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) High School All-American Team. The team is comprised of approximately 40 top student-athletes from across the nation. "I've worked so hard," Cari said of the honor. "This is my dream. This is what I've worked towards."

Cari has been playing soccer for 12 years and has already been offered a full scholarship to play for Notre Dame, which she plans to accept as a senior next year. She was named Parade All-American last year and has been captain of the school's Varsity Soccer Team since her sophomore year. Cari was also named All-State and All-Long Island during both her freshman and junior years. This year, the entire team was named a Scholar-Athlete team.

Cari also plays on a U-17 (Under-17) national team, which competes in tournaments across the world. She has always been the youngest player on the team, from the time she was asked to join at the age of 14. According to TopDrawerSoccer.com, Cari is ranked as the fourth best female soccer player in the nation.



Learning Internet Safety

Students at East Islip Middle School were recently treated to a special workshop presentation by Keith Dunn (KDCOP), former member of the U.S. Air Force and active member of the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Funded by the FTK



Foundation, KDCOP shared his experiences with students and reviewed modern-day Internet safety with them. His topics included social networking, cyberbullying, online relationships and sexting. Mr. Dunn warned students about the real dangers and ramifications of poor judgment in these areas, and recounted actual experiences he had in protecting minors. In addition to reviewing the concerns, KDCOP also shared tactics on how students can protect themselves.

Putting Their Best Foot Forward

Students in East Islip High School's Global Business and Environment Green Academies recently participated in the "Best Foot Forward" Competition. Sponsored by LI Works, Nike and Ford PAS, eleven schools participated in the competition, which asked students to create a short video related to the Career Academy theme of "Project Green." East Islip's Career Academy won an award in the Best Message of Social Responsibility category for their video, which centered on the "reduce, reuse and recycle" theme. Despite being in its first year, the school's Business Academy won Best Entertainment Video for its work expressing how the students relate to sneakers. The event was held in November at Molloy College. Each of the school's academies received a \$100 check to use toward its program.

Schools to Receive iPads for Student Use

The EJ (Eric & Jack) Autism Foundation, based out of East Islip, recently donated over \$10,000 to the East Islip School District to use towards the purchase of iPads for student use. Knowing the needs of students with autism, the organization thought iPads would be a great addition to the special education classes at Connetquot Elementary School and the Life Skills classes at the East Islip Middle School. The EJ Autism Foundation was started five years ago by Bea Petersen, who has two children with autism currently attending East Islip schools. The organization is a 501(c)(3) charity comprised of a board who organizes fundraising events to benefit students across the Island.

Funds for this donation were raised as a result of the November 18 "Formally Informal" Black Tie Hoodie Party,

which was specifically designed to raise funds for the East Islip School District. "I'm so proud that the community recognizes the fact that all of us together can make a difference," said Mrs. Petersen of the successful event. The district plans to use the \$10,000 to purchase 14 iPads with cases and chargers, as well as apps (applications) that would most benefit these students. Training on the iPads will be taking place in the coming weeks, and iPads will be distributed shortly thereafter. "Seeing the smiles that these donated iPads will put on the children's faces will make all of our efforts worthwhile," said Board President Ken Cronin. "We thank EJ Autism for their generosity and promise our support, as best we can, in the future."

UPCOMING MUSICAL *INFORMATION*

East Islip Middle School
Presents WALT DISNEY'S
Beauty and the Beast, Jr.
February 11 & 12, 7:30 PM
at EIMS Auditorium
Tickets are on sale now for \$7.

East Islip High School
Presents **Guys and Dolls**
March 31, April 1 & April 2
8:00 PM
at EIHS Auditorium
Tickets are on sale now for \$10.

DISTRICTWIDE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

A state-mandated regulation requires K-12 public school districts to conduct a Five Year Building Condition Survey. This required survey is currently being conducted by the school district's architectural firm, Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers, who will visually inspect all mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, as well as general work and site work, and make assessments to the overall condition of these systems. The architect will also receive input from district staff regarding any other requests that the district feels should be considered for possible inclusion into the new survey. This survey will be completed by mid-January and will be submitted to NYSED Facilities Planning at that time.

The new Five Year Building Condition Survey will then be submitted to both our Board of Education as well as our Repairs & Renovations Committee (RRC) for review.

The Repair Committee will then provide rankings in priority order for all potential work that encompasses the Five Year Survey and offer recommendations to our Board of Education.

New HS Career Development Program Kitchen

The district has just recently completed renovations to create a new Career Development kitchen at our high school in Rooms 130 and 132. This renovation includes new kitchen casework (upper and lower storage cabinets and a separate working island). We have installed a sink, dishwasher, stove, microwave oven and refrigerator, as well as a new unit ventilator to provide the necessary heating, ventilation and exhaust. All appliances were purchased utilizing Special Education funds and a donation from the EJ Autism Foundation.

A special ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open this area was held on December 22, 2010. Our Special Education students prepared light refreshments and provided holiday music for all in attendance. The creation of this wonderful new kitchen will expand the horizons for all of our Special Education students at the SHS.

EIMS Auxiliary Gymnasium Soundproofing

The district recently purchased a total of 96 acoustic panels for the EIMS auxiliary gymnasium to absorb as much noise as possible, as this is a large open space with a high ceiling that houses ceiling hung HVAC units that unfortunately increase the overall noise level within the area. These panels will minimize the excess noise to acceptable levels.

School district building personnel are currently installing these panels on all of the walls and the ceiling.

SADD About Winning

Members of the East Islip High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club presented at the East Islip Board of Education meeting on November 9. The group, which consists of 88 members with the mission of making and educating others to make good choices, reflected on their experiences as SADD members. They also spoke about their work with fifth graders in the district during Red Ribbon Week. One of the projects they worked on was challenging students to develop posters that warned against the dangers of drugs. At the November 9th Board meeting, select SADD members presented the fifth-grade poster winners with their rewards. This year's Red Ribbon Poster Contest Winners are: Ryan Pepe (JFK), Destiny Sulima (Connetquot), Dominique Degener (RCK) and Evan Maurer (Timber Point). Congratulations to all of these students.



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- Wendell Chu, Superintendent of Schools

This newsletter is published by the Board of Education as a community service to inform the public of school news and business. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 224-2000 or fax 581-1617. Visit our website at www.eischools.org