

The Beacon Hope

Our Academic Elite

East Islip High School Principal William Brennen recently announced the school's Top 10 academic achievers for the Class of 2010. The announcement was made in October at the annual achievement breakfast, hosted by Mr. Brennen, in honor of



students who have excelled academically throughout their educational career. At the head of the class are this year's Valedictorian, Nela Tatur, and Salutatorian, Deanna Pandolfo.

Rounding out the Top 10, in order of #3 through #10 are: Christian Reed, Shawn Smith, Matthew Meagher, Victor Bruno, James Montague, Eric Oswald, Brendon Fusco and Mary Vetter. Congratulations to these academically elite students.

Bottom row (L-R): Nela Tatur, Deanna Pandolfo, Victor Bruno, and Shawn Smith. Top row (L-R): Eric Oswald, James Montague, Christian Reed, and Matthew Meagher.

Youth Achievement Award Recipient

East Islip High School freshman Victoria Sidorski was recently named recipient of a 2009 County Executive Youth Achievement Award.



Victoria was chosen for the award based upon her demonstration of character and for serving as a role model to fellow citizens and peers. "Every community depends on unique individuals who show us how to live life to the fullest," County Executive Steve Levy said of the award recipients. Victoria was honored with a proclamation during a special ceremony at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook.

Class of 2009 Awarded \$5 Million in Scholarships

East Islip High School's Class of 2009 was awarded more than \$5 million in total scholarship monies. This includes scholarships from local organizations, as well as college-specific scholarships, which our students qualified for through athletic and academic excellence. Scholarships ease the financial burden of attending college on both families and students. All current seniors and juniors are encouraged to explore all scholarship outlet possibilities. Congratulations again to the class of 2009!

Nine Students Selected for 2010 LISFA Groups

The East Islip School District Music Department is proud to announce the selection of nine outstanding student musicians to perform in the 2010 Long Island String Festival Association of Suffolk County string orchestras in January. They represent talented public school string players in the county and are selected from a pool of hundreds of outstanding students. Selection based upon a student's superior solo adjudication score at the annual NYSSMA spring solo festival and a strong recommendation and ranking from the student's orchestra director.

EAST ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL

- Holly Alper
- Leah Arden
- Brendon Fusco
- Allison O'Brien
- Cassidy Tatum
- Annette Tekverk
- Jessica Willdigg

EAST ISLIP MIDDLE SCHOOL

- William Meehan
- Carolyn Sidoti

Congratulations to the 2010 LISFA-selected students.



Team and Community

had been taught to both of us - the concept of the TEAM.

This is the time of year that most emphasizes the need for our community to come together to help those who may be less fortunate than others. On behalf of

The team is not just about sports. The team is used in almost every part of our adult society. When you go to school, your class is your team. When you apply for a job, you are applying to be part of a team. The whole interview process is about how well you will

the Board of Education, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

fit in with the team. In order to have a successful company, you have to have all parts working to-

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TEAM

By definition, a "team" is a number of persons associated together in work or activity. So a club or organization is synonymous with a team.

A few years ago when I didn't feel that my son was getting enough playing time on the football team, he, being wise beyond my years said: "It's okay dad, it's all about the TEAM." At first I was taken aback. What a great lesson

Despite the fall chill and the threat of rain, East Islip High School held its annual homecoming parade and game on Saturday, October 17th. Representatives from each of the high school classes proudly stood by their floats, which they created to the theme of "board games" this year. This year's homecoming king and queen, crowned at the pep rally, were seniors Michelle Mandile and Jake Comiskey.

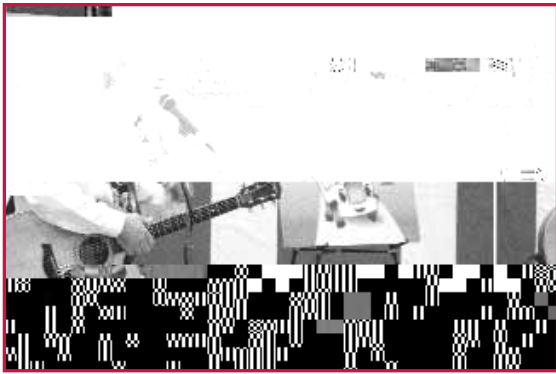
Even with unseasonably cool weather, the stands were filled with loyal East Islip fans showing their support of the Redmen's Varsity Football team. In this year's homecoming game against the West Babylon Eagles, the Redmen started out strong and the defense stood tall, treating the crowd to a 21-0 shutout victory. Quarterback Mike Rooney passed for 86 yards and two touchdowns, one to Trevor McNerny and the other to Joe Barclay, who also ran for a touchdown. Overall, the Redmen had a great season, with a 9-2 record, advancing to the County Division II Finals.

Homecoming King Jake Comiskey and
Homecoming Queen Michelle Mandile

NEWS AROUND

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Singing School Bus Driver



Pictured is Joe the Singing Bus Driver during his performance.

Students at the Early Childhood Center were treated to a special performance by Joe Guida, better known as The Singing School Bus Driver. Mr. Guida, who was a bus driver for 30 years before touring schools as the

singing bus driver, performs an interactive, educational song about school, safety and, of

course, riding the bus. As part of his presentation, The Singing Driver asks students to sing along with him and learn the lyrics to songs such as, "I'm Getting Ready for School," during which students recite the essentials of their morning routine, and "The Buckle-Up Song," which focuses on school bus safety.

JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

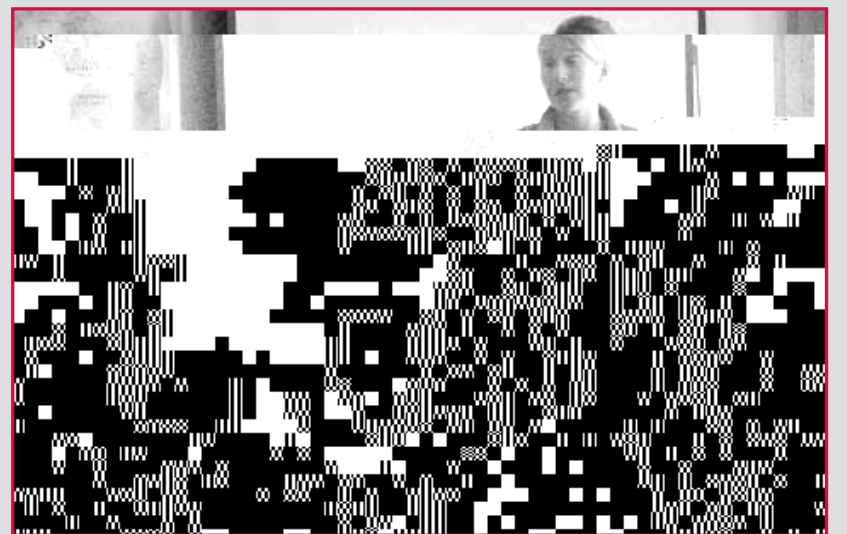
Going Batty Over Education



Third-grade students at John F. Kennedy Elementary School not only learned about bats for the Halloween season; they built their own bat houses. Each class participated in a 75-minute workshop about bats, hosted by Zephyr Jost from the Cornell Cooperative Extension Program. Students learned about bat behavior, types of bats, bat anatomy and why bats are important to the community they inhabit.

The workshop culminated with each student constructing the ideal bat house from wood. Each house not only serves as a shelter to keep bats warm, but also a means for students to study bats in their own backyards.

As the primary predators of night-flying insects, bats play a vital role in maintaining the balance of nature and controlling the number of yard and garden pests. A single little brown bat can catch hundreds of mosquito-sized insects an hour, and a typical colony of big brown bats can protect local farmers from the costly attacks of 18 million rootworms each summer.



Pictured are some highlights from the program with Ms. Wilcox and third-grade students.

CONNETQUOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Giving Thanks This Holiday Season

For the past six years, fifth graders at Connetquot Elementary School have been celebrating Thanksgiving with an annual feast. With each student donating \$4, parents use the money to purchase turkey, stuffing and potatoes from a local deli. The purchased food, in addition to donated items such as vegetables, corn bread, fruit, pie and desserts, is presented buffet-style to students during the week of Thanksgiving.

The event serves as a way to reinforce the purpose of Thanksgiving as a day of giving thanks. This year, school social worker Vivian VanKoolwijk arranged for any leftover food items to be donated to a shelter in Port Jefferson, where she works with the less fortunate. In addition, students created placemats, which also went to the shelter. "Placemats give those at the shelter a sense of home and comfort," Ms. VanKoolwijk said about the students donating these items. "That's important for them during Thanksgiving." She also urged students to be thankful for all that they have all year round and not just during the holidays.





Student Chosen for Piano Showcase

Michael Stevens, a fifth-grade student at John Kennedy Elementary School, was selected as an alternate performer for the 4th Annual Piano Showcase at the New York State School Music Association's (NYSSMA) Winter Conference. Michael was selected based upon his outstanding performance at the NYSSMA solo festival. In addition to the piano, Michael also plays the French horn. "As a fifth-grade student, Michael is considered one of the top piano players in the school," District Director for Music and Fine Arts John Spiezio III said. "With only 11 students being selected to perform, East Islip is proud of his selection as an alternate."



Michael was also selected to perform in the Long Island Philharmonic Master Class with Seymour Lipkin. Mr. Lipkin is a master pianist who is on the piano and chamber music faculties at the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School. Michael performed with Mr. Lipkin on November 16 at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Melville.

Michael is pictured with JFK music teacher Sarah Nocero and District Director for Music and Fine Arts John Spiezio III.

RUTH C. KINNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

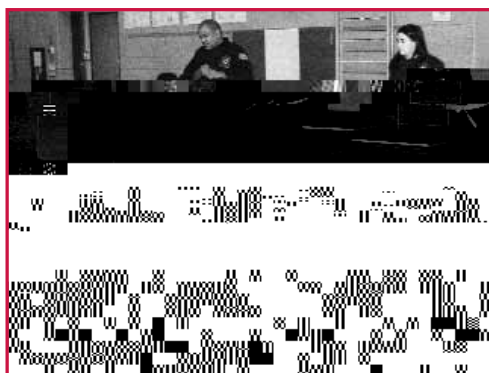
Baking Bread for a Good Cause

Second-grade students in Ms. Tomasello's class at Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School took the season of giving to heart. During the month of November, students created placemats out of construction paper and decorated them with illustrations. The placemats were then laminated and donated to a local shelter, along with pumpkin bread that students made the week of Thanksgiving. With the help of class parents, students followed a recipe and made five loaves of pumpkin bread to benefit others this Thanksgiving holiday.



Pictured is Ms. Tomasello's class with their placemats.

Students Learn Conflict Resolution



Renshi Frank Olmeda and Sempei Jessica Longo discuss how to focus the mind and body with first-grade students in Mr. Ruhli's and Miss Rabin's gym classes.

Students at Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School were visited by representatives from the LI Ninjutsu Center, who taught the children about conflict resolution. Members of LI Ninjutsu Center, Renshi Frank Olmeda, Sempei Jessica Longo and Sensei Ryan Frank, have been donating their time with students.

"We are trying to keep our community safe," Sempei Jessica Longo said of the program, which has also visited the students at Timber Point Elementary School.

During the workshop, students are taught to focus on their mind and body, and that when someone says something hurtful to them or is looking for a fight, to say "thank you" and walk away. Children were also taught some Japanese words in Ninjutsu, as well as basic sitting, standing and kicking positions, which students were able to perform themselves, alongside the instructors.

TIMBER POINT ELEMENTARY

Largest Vets Ceremony

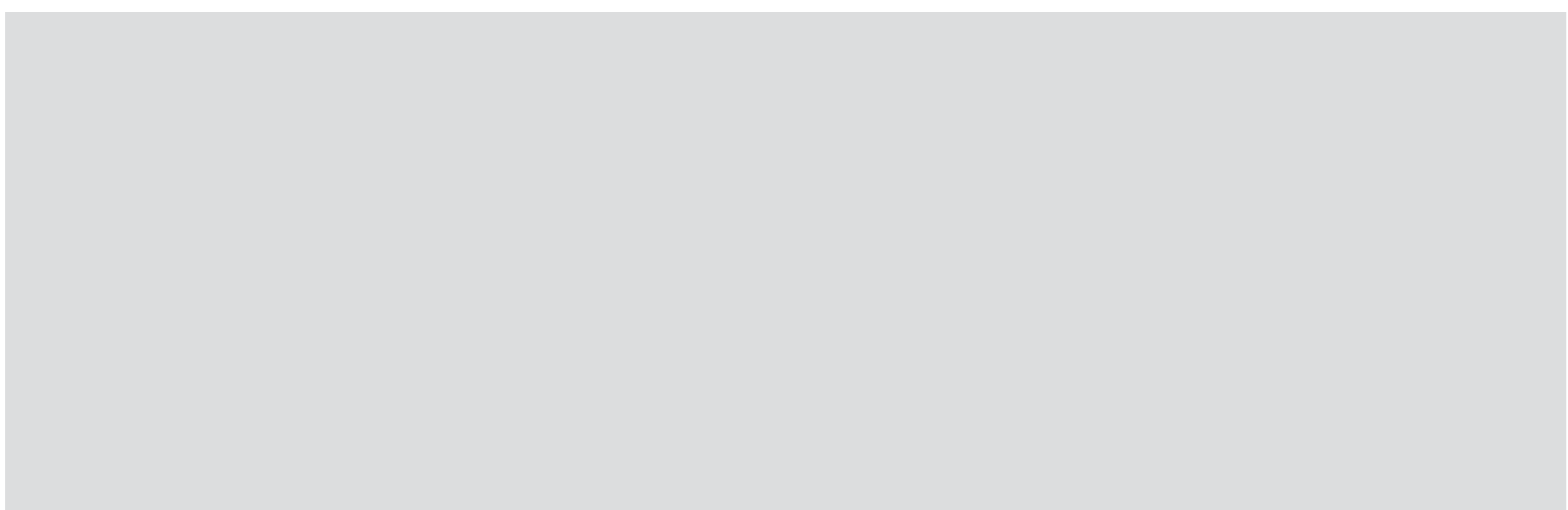


Students at Timber Point Elementary School honored local veterans and their families with a special ceremony on November 6. In

their eighth year of hosting this celebration, this was the largest turnout they have had to date. The celebration featured special choral performances by third-grade students and a flute ensemble performance of "The Caissons Go Rolling Along."

American veterans from East Islip Post 18, with assistance from Cub Scout members from Pack 205, taught students the ceremonial Folding of the Flag. Fifth-graders were also given the opportunity to ask questions of these heroes who served our country in the various branches of military service. Prior to the ceremony, snacks and refreshments were served, courtesy of the school's PTA.





FTK Swings for Education, Honors Local Supporter

The East Islip For The Kids (FTK) foundation recently held its 10th annual Golf Outing to raise funds in support of academic, cultural, and recreation programs for East Islip School District students. This year, FTK named Chris Portera as the 'Fore the Kids' Golf Outing honoree, for his local efforts to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and his support for children in the greater East Islip and Islip communities.



