

# Elwood

## EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

*Honor the Past and Celebrate the Future*

### Honoring Over 150 Years of Service

At its regular meeting on June 21, the Elwood Board of Education publicly recognized the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of the eight district employees who retired at the conclusion of the school year.

Over 150 combined years of dedicated educational, coaching, clerical and custodial service were celebrated as Steven Corso, Marion Gilmore, William Hagemann, Thomas Laraia, Mary Makowski, Anne Mateer, James Rohan and JoAnn Salmeri bid the district farewell.

"These staff members have worked tirelessly to enrich the lives of many students, as well as their co-workers," remarked Elwood-John H. Glenn Principal Dr. Vincent Mulieri.

Upon recognizing the accomplishments of the retirees, the Board took the time to recognize the eight district employees who this year reached their 25-year mark of service in the Elwood schools. Maria Colarossi, Eugenia Egan, Geraldine LaCentra, Robert Peters, Nancy Raguzin, Donald Rohrsen, Nancy Schwier and Cynthia Smith were each presented with trophies and praised by the Board for their dedication to the district over the past two-and-a-half decades.

"It is our pleasure to recognize the hard work that our retirees and 25-year employees have put forth through the years," said Superintendent Peter Scordo. "We appreciate their devoted and dedicated service to the children of Elwood."



(Left to right): Superintendent of Schools Peter Scordo and 2012 retirees Thomas Laraia, JoAnn Salmeri, Anne Mateer and James Rohan with Assistant Superintendent for Business William Pastore. Absent from photo are retirees Steven Corso, Marion Gilmore, William Hagemann and Mary Makowski.

#### Elwood Union Free School District

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### Welcoming New and Familiar Faces in Elwood

The Elwood Union Free School District would like to welcome Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit (below, left) as its new interim assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Dr. Best-Laimit joins Elwood with more than 31 years of experience in the education field. She most recently served as the superintendent of schools for the Babylon Union Free School District, a position she held from 2006-2011 before retiring. Prior to that, Dr. Best-Laimit served as Babylon's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for almost seven years. She has also worked as an elementary school principal, assistant principal and coordinator of early childhood centers, among other positions.

"I am looking forward to joining the Elwood community and getting to know the students, parents and staff," stated Dr. Best-Laimit. "Elwood has a reputation for strong schools, and I look forward to lending my knowledge and contributing to its continued advancement."

The district is also pleased to announce the appointment of Maryann Llewellyn (below, right) as the interim principal of Harley Avenue Primary School. Mrs. Llewellyn will serve as the principal for the 2012-2013 school year, as Karen Koliadko has accepted a position with a school district on the East End. Mrs. Llewellyn most recently served as Elwood's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction on a part-time basis. She has extensive experience in education, including her work as a classroom teacher, teacher coach, principal, assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent and superintendent. Mrs. Llewellyn's background also includes teaching on the college level at Hofstra University.

"I am excited to return to the primary school level to serve as Harley's principal, and I am committed to making the 2012-2013 school year a terrific one for the students," Mrs. Llewellyn said.



# DATES to Remember

**Monday, September 3**  
Labor Day – Schools Closed

**Tuesday, September 4**  
First Day of School for Students Grades 1-12  
Kindergarten Meet and Greet

**Wednesday, September 5**  
First Day of School for Kindergarten

**Thursday, September 6**  
Board of Education Meeting  
7:30 p.m. @ MS Auditorium

**September 17-18**  
Rosh Hashanah – Schools Closed

**Sunday, September 30**  
Elwood Education Endowment  
Annual 5K/Fun Run 9 a.m.

**Thursday, October 4**  
Board of Education Work Session  
7:30 p.m. @ MS Cafeteria

**Monday, October 8**  
Columbus Day – Schools Closed

**Saturday, October 13**  
High School Homecoming  
Parade 12:30 p.m. and Game 3:30 p.m.

## ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Elwood Public School District has complied with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, AHERA [40 CFR 763.85 (E) (B)], by completing the following requirements:

1. Reinspecting all buildings and spaces for all asbestos-containing building materials.
2. Sampling previously untested building materials suspected of containing asbestos.
3. Updating the Management Plan.

The reinspection results and the Updated Management Plan are available for review in the main office of each building or the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Office located in the middle school.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMITTEES

We would like to invite interested community members to serve on any of the following districtwide committees and Board of Education subcommittees. Please send a letter of interest/intent to Mr. Scordo's office by September 7, 2012.

### Board Subcommittees:

Curriculum                      Technology  
Facilities and Finance          Policy  
Public Relations

### Districtwide Committees:

Citizens Finance/Budget Advisory  
Health and Nutrition  
Safety

**Thank you for your continued support.**

# Kudos Corner!



### YOUTH WRITERS RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to the five Elwood students recognized in the 13th Annual Huntington Youth Writes Writing Contest, which is geared to fourth through twelfth-grade students in the Town of Huntington. Taking first, second and third place, respectively, in the essay competition were Elwood Middle School students Kathryn Claffey, Kelly Cooney and Andrew Reinhold. Garnering third-place recognition and an honorable mention in the Short Story category were Meghan Browne and Farwah Hussain, respectively. The winning entries were published in a literary journal that was distributed at the Huntington Writes Awards Ceremony.

### ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE

Well done to recent graduate Kaitlin Whitehorn. Kaitlin won the New York State Championship in the high jump. This is Kaitlin's second state championship as a high jumper. She won this most recent championship in North Syracuse with a jump of 5'8". Way to go, Kaitlin!



### REFLECTING ON TALENT

Kudos to Jillian Coscio on receiving an Award of Excellence in the PTA Reflections New York state competition in the category of Dance Choreography. Jillian's work went on to be judged in the 116th National PTA Reflections competition.

Congratulations are also extended to Amanda DiMartini for earning an Award of Merit at the state level. As a recipient of this award, Amanda had her photography submission displayed at the national convention.

### FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Bravo to the kindergarten students of Harley Avenue Elementary who worked diligently to gather materials that would have otherwise been deemed trash, such as bottle caps and plastic shopping bags. They turned these items into a beautiful mural depicting an ocean environment. This project was the culmination of scientific units studied throughout the year, including units on various environments, animals and habitats.



### A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Third-grade students in Mrs. Held's and Mrs. Noon's classes of James H. Boyd Intermediate School brought history lessons to life through the interactive Living Biography Museum that they created. The third-graders researched and dressed as some of the most famous and interesting people who have shaped the world's history and culture.

Visitors to the "museum" made a charitable donation to listen to students deliver informative monologues about their persons of interest. There were approximately 50 characters on display, ranging from current artists and athletes to historical characters from around the world. Museum guests had an opportunity to meet noteworthy people such as Mother Theresa and the Mandelas, as well as pioneers of science like Sir Isaac Newton and Galileo. In the end the students raised \$280 for charity and learned a great deal about the past.



## Welcome Back!

The Board of Education held its reorganization meeting on July 2, swearing in newly re-elected trustees Joseph Fusaro and Dan Ciccone. During the meeting, voting for new Board officers took place. Both men were re-elected to the positions they held the previous year. Mr. Fusaro was once again sworn in as president and Mr. Ciccone as vice president.



### Board of Education

**Joseph Fusaro, President      Dan Ciccone, Vice President**  
**Andrew L. Kaplan      Bill Gutekunst      Mike LaMena**  
**Peter Scordo, Superintendent of Schools**

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

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