

Our Schools



Spring
2023

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sign up for our Community Notification System!

If you are a resident of Northport-East Northport who does not have children currently enrolled but would like to receive relevant emails from the district, please visit the following link or scan the QR code to sign up for our community notification system! <http://northport.k12.ny.us/community/notification>



A MUSICAL REVIVAL

STUDENTS RETURN TO THE STAGE FOR SPRINGTIME MUSICALS AND PLAYS

Joyous singing, elaborate costumes and sets, and enthusiastic audiences were present at every district building this year thanks to the return of full-scale school musicals!

Even from a distance, visitors could spot the six-foot-tall Ursula blow-up figurine in front of Northport High School ahead of the premier of "The Little Mermaid," the school's spring musical. This entrance decoration was just a small taste of what was to come during the performance, which proved to be a spectacular showcase of student talent that spanned acting, singing, dancing, designing, instrumentals and much more.

The performance marked the first time that students resumed a full production since the pandemic and reflected the overall feeling of a fresh start. Students sang classics from the Disney production, including "Under the Sea" and "Part of Your World," while dancing on stage. The costumes,

created by students enrolled in the fashion design courses, were designed and constructed using creative and innovative methods. From jellyfish crafted of umbrellas and LED string lights to crustacean puppets made of ping pong balls and felt - each piece was unique, vibrant and handmade.

Members of the cast and crew were recognized by the Board of Education and administrators during a meeting, where the audience was also treated to a brief performance. Superintendent Robert Banzer acknowledged that in addition to putting on a spectacular performance, students inspired their younger peers through their work. When addressing members of the cast and crew, he said, "The energy and the talent and the performances and the creativity by everybody - it was incredible."

"There are literally hundreds of boys and girls in the audience who are looking up to each and every one of you," he added, "who are saying 'I want to do that someday.' Please don't lose sight of that. I want to thank you for that and for all you've done to make this a joyous performance."

Students also recognized how special the performance was, with Maeve Carroll acknowledging the full-circle moment of performing her freshman year and now getting to work alongside her younger peers as a senior.

"I loved being able to teach the freshmen, because they have gone through all of middle school not knowing what a real show was," she said. "So it was very much like hitting the ground running. I was very proud of them, to see their incredible growth curve. For them to be able to do this and have the same kind of freshman year we were able to have



continued on page 2...

A MUSICAL REVIVAL

STUDENTS RETURN TO THE STAGE FOR SPRINGTIME MUSICALS AND PLAYS



was very fulfilling to see."

Fellow senior Isabella Corea said, "I loved being back in an environment with all of my friends and seeing their faces and being close to them." During the 2021-22 school year, the students were able to put on a performance of "Urinetown," which ultimately earned them a Hunting-tons for best musical; however, the lead-up to the production was scaled back due to pandemic protocols, including a limited orchestra accompaniment, also called the "pit."

"It's not just the people in the cast," Maeve added. "It's being able to see the people in the cast, and then we had the costume crew. They went out of their way and just killed it. I had so many friends on tech, and then the people in the pit... Just to be able to connect with so many people at once, that's what theater is all about."

After all was said and done, Maeve summed up the experience by emphasizing the lasting impact the program has on students. "The most important part was we had fun, and we're leaving a good foundation for the kids behind us. So they know what Northport theater is supposed to be, and so our job is done," she said.

Northport High School wasn't the only school to enjoy a spectacular show. Both middle schools and all four elementary schools also saw students make a return to the stage. Ocean Avenue's "So You Want To Be a Pirate?" performance included a large-scale pirate ship, and Pulaski Road's "Winnie the Pooh" was a joyous and sweet spectacle.

ENMS students incorporated humor into their performance of "Shrek Jr. The Musical," which involved over 80 students between cast, crew, costume designers, business managers and more. Teacher Sandy Leahy, the play's director, emphasized how grateful she was to have worked with the remarkable students. "It has been our privilege to work with these exceptional human beings for the past three months, and we look forward to watching



their unique adventures unfold."

The Northport Middle School musical, "Mary Poppins" is upcoming as well, with a large group of passionate performers ready to take the stage and showcase their talents.

Director of Fine and Performing Arts Izzet Mergen views musical theater as an important part of the school experience that can support student development. "The great thing about musical theater is you find as many as 100-plus students and teachers working together for a common cause where, much like the links of a chain, everyone involved is equally important," he said. "Through this cooperative

and creative work, our students are improving their skills in collaboration, communication, concentration, problem solving, self-discipline, self-expression, self-efficacy, self-confidence and self-esteem. Moreover, participating in musical theater fosters empathy, conflict resolution skills, resilience to stress, enhances creative thinking and, most importantly, it is fun!"

Cristen Salisbury, who teaches music at Pulaski Road and musical theater at NHS, also emphasized the impact that the performing arts can have on students. "Live theater is all about the connections we make with one another," she said. "The magic comes from our shared experience. It feels so good to share that excitement with our students and audience once again."

Superintendent Search Begins

During the Jan. 26 Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Robert Banzer announced his resignation for the purposes of retirement, effective Dec. 31, 2023.

Following this announcement, the Board of Education began meeting to discuss next steps regarding the search for his successor. On March 20, the Board appointed International Deliverables LLC as the third-party search firm which will support the district in this recruitment process. The Board met with the consultant on April 15 to establish next steps.

An important part of the search will involve collecting community input regarding the wants and needs of the district to establish a candidate profile. Updates regarding the search will be on the district website and will be shared in the coming months.

The Journey Continues...

Students for 60,000 Returns to Kenya to Deliver Hope

Over two dozen Northport High School students made the long trip to Kenya during their winter break with the mission of picking up where they left off during an excursion in 2020. During the trip, which is organized by the school's Students for 60,000 philanthropic club, students visited the Mtito Andei region and worked with the community to build a new school for the village children.

The work began in February 2020 with students and staff learning about the village in Mtito Andei after an elephant crashed through their existing school building. During the first trip, students accomplished just a portion of the final school rebuilding and due to the pandemic, the group was not able to return until this year. Upon arrival, they were thrilled that the local Kenyans had taken it upon themselves to continue the work in their absence, helping them complete the building much quicker. Northport students were then able to work on painting and other tasks to bring the school near completion.

During a community presentation on March 28, teachers and advisers Karen Paquet and Darryl St. George, along with two dozen Northport High School students, presented about the work they did and the remarkable Kenyans they met during their trip. Mr. St. George began the presentation by emphasizing the importance of bringing not just financial aid, but hope to the village, which is the purpose of service learning. Junior Tessa Cote called it "the best two weeks of my life" and reiterated that the group "wanted to reinforce the idea of hope, not just aid."

Repeatedly, students spoke about the joy that the young Kenyan students had, despite their living conditions and lack of resources following a three-year drought, which coincidentally was broken due to a rainfall the same day as the presentation. Fellow junior Sky said "all of the kids there just had such pure joy and pure love." Many others reinforced this sentiment, saying that the Kenyan students never complained about their conditions or expressed wanting for anything besides basic necessities, something that students believed themselves and their peers could learn from.

Sophomore Matt wanted the community to know that there is so much more to the community than what meets the eye. "Cherishing these memories has not only given



me hope that when we leave them, they will be ok, but it also taught me important lessons and made me a stronger person, and I owe so much of that to these kids. Mtito Andei isn't just a community with no money, smack dab in the middle of nowhere. It's a tight-knit community. It's a loving, extended family that I will forever hold in my heart," he said.

In total, the group raised over \$7,100 to purchase new desks, chairs and uniforms for the students in addition to building the schoolhouse. They hope to return and provide additional funding to support the community with an electric fence to keep both intruders and animals out of the village, as well as to build an administrative building to house supplies and purchase new desks, chairs and uniforms for the students.

In addition to working hard, students had opportunities to explore the beautiful country by visiting Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge in Tsavo West National Park, speaking with local adults and children and learning about the nation's history and traditions.

Senior Dylan concluded by recognizing how the trip has inspired him and that he will remember what he learned far into his future. "Through all my service endeavors, I hope to keep these memories with me and remember everything we went through so I can apply it to what I'm doing throughout my life and remember the pain and suffering and use that to encourage and motivate me throughout whatever I'm doing," he said.



*****ECRWSS**

Postal Customer

Northport, New York 11768

Students IN THE Spotlight:

Junior Matt Marlow Named Two-time NYS Wrestling Champion

Northport High School junior Matthew Marlow continues to dominate in his sport of wrestling, winning his second Division I New York State championship in a row on Saturday, Feb. 25. He defeated his opponent from Wantagh 5-0 to earn the title, further cementing his Northport High School athletic legacy as the first wrestler to accomplish this. Earlier in the season, Marlow won several matches before advancing to the 118-pound weight class finals. He also took home the top spot at the Eastern States Classic in January where he did not surrender a single offensive point. Marlow is coached by Head Coach Robert "Thad" Alberti and his father, Assistant Coach Andrew Marlow.



Senior Evan Johnson Selected for NAFME All-Eastern

Exemplary musician and talented Northport High School student Evan Johnson has been selected for the biennial 2023 All-Eastern Honors Ensembles, organized by the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME). Evan has been selected on tuba for the All-Eastern Honors Concert Band. He is a member of the Northport High School Symphonic Winds, Symphony Orchestra and the Tiger Marching Band. He has performed in school musicals and productions, was selected for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State festival in 2022 and was also selected for the NYSCAME/SCMEA Honors Concert Band. Evan's musical talents have been the result of several years of commitment with support from his music teacher, Ms. Lynn Cromeyn, NHS Symphonic Winds director and NHS Tiger Marching Band director.

FIRST Robotics Team 5099 Alliance Places Second at Long Island Regional

From March 23-25, Northport High School's FIRST Robotics Team 5099 competed at the Long Island Regional #2 at Hofstra University, earning an overall second-place event finish with their alliance teammates from Kings Park and Patchogue-Medford! Northport Robotics persevered through many challenges they encountered with their robot over weeks of design and construction as well as during three days of intense competition. Their professionalism never faltered as they met the high-octane charge of competitive sports with the focused power of engineering and computer science. Team members are Caleb Belanger, William Chambers, Nick Churaman, Veronica Flick, Robert Germani, Brendan Gorman, Tyler Hradek, Ryan Kattau, Peter Kucza, Eduardo Lopez, Carter Mooers, Erik Oderwald, Todd Petry, Cole Rumpel, Hunter Rumpel, Adam Sweeney and Luke Tuthill.



Alumni Email List

Did you graduate from Northport High School? Would you like to receive occasional updates from the district? Sign up for our Alumni email list! Visit northport.k12.ny.us/schools/alumni_email_list or scan the QR code to sign up!

