

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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Message*



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JANUARY 2025



SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we begin the New Year! While it may be cold outside, our students and staff have been very busy. Our dedicated teachers work very hard to provide meaningful learning opportunities and experiences for our students. Over the last few years, we have showcased our work in the various disciplines via presentations at Board of Education meetings. This provides us with a valuable opportunity to share our work with the Board and the entire school community. You can access the presentations [HERE](#).

As we conclude our first semester, we hope you enjoy this synopsis of what has happened thus far in January.

Sincerely,
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.



CURRICULUM CORNER

REGENERON SCHOLARS...AND FINALIST!

Congratulations to High School East student Jolene Cao on being named a finalist in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, as well as East students, Daanish Bassi and Richard Chai on being selected Regeneron scholars!

The Regeneron Science Talent Search is the nation's most prestigious pre-college science and mathematics competition!

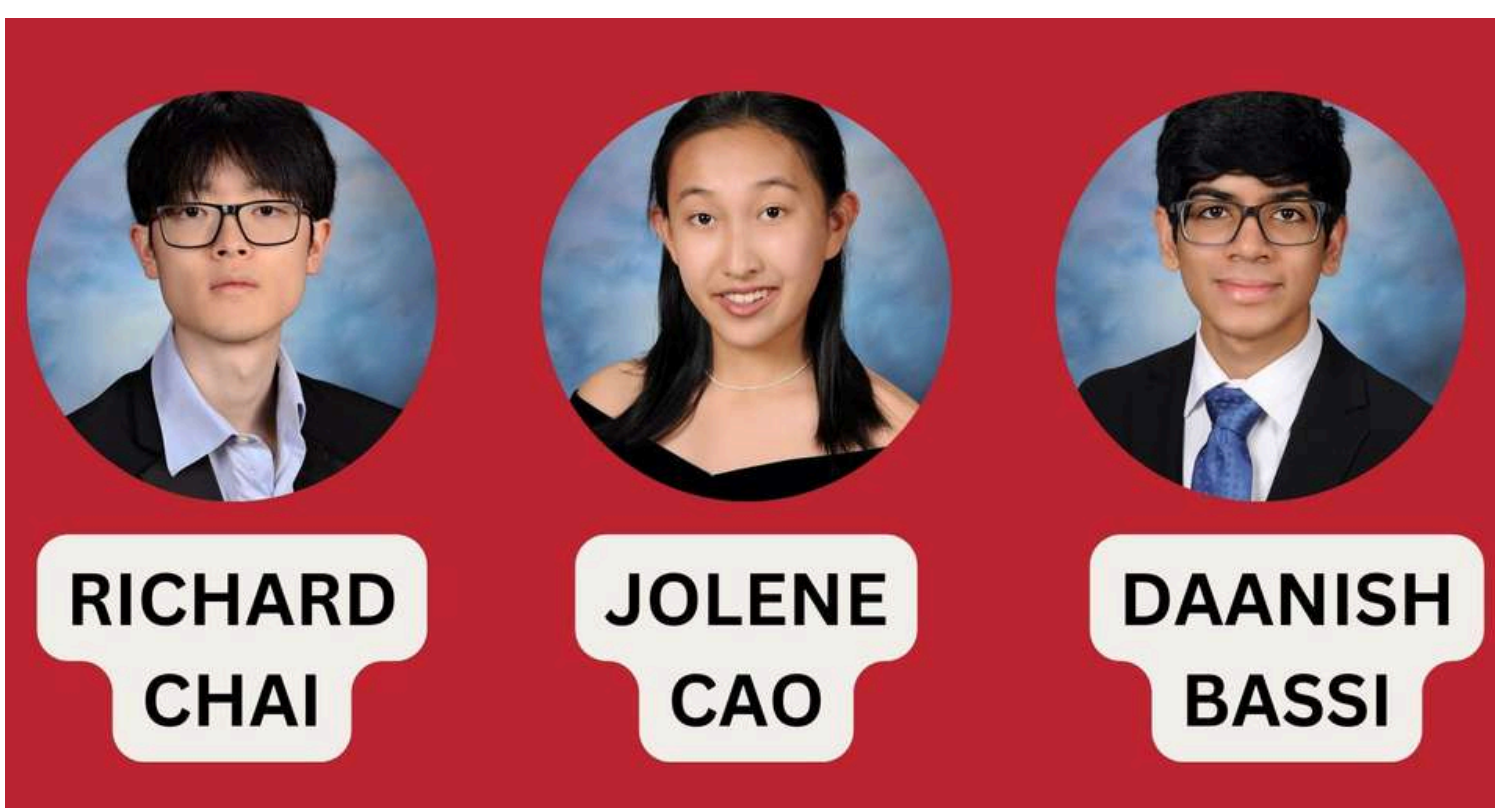
Jolene is one of six Long Island high school seniors named finalists, and 40 nationwide.

“It feels surreal being a finalist,” Jolene proudly stated. “It’s something I’ve never imagined, and I can’t wait for the finals to meet distinguished scientists and to get to know all the other finalists too.”

A special thank you to THINK Discovery Science Research Coordinator, Maria Zeitlin, for her countless hours of hard work and enthusiasm!

SCSD Director of Science, Dr. Stephanie O’Brien: “We are incredibly proud of Jolene, Richard, and Daanish for this remarkable achievement. Their innovative research projects demonstrate a deep passion for science and a commitment to exploring the unknown. These students embody the spirit of inquiry and discovery that we champion in Smithtown, and they serve as an inspiration to their peers and our entire community. Ms. Zeitlin's passion for nurturing young scientists is truly commendable.”

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the student’s research projects.



CURRICULUM CORNER

TIME TO NETWORK!

Virtual Enterprise students from High School East and High School West recently participated in the East End Networking Event at the Atlantis Ballroom in Riverhead. Students delivered company sales pitches, networked with other firms, displayed marketing materials, and conducted sales, all while improving communication skills, and supporting the VE economy.

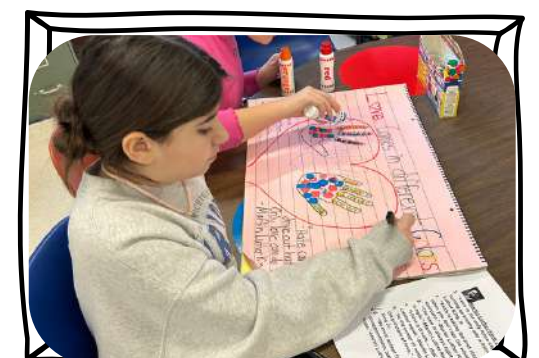
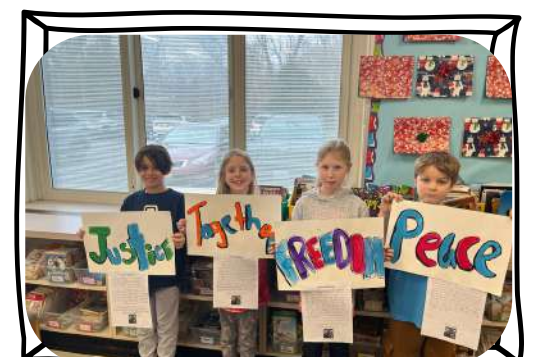
Congratulations to all employees from Revtech, Aquatrak, Athlyte and Kahuna!



LEARNING ABOUT MLK

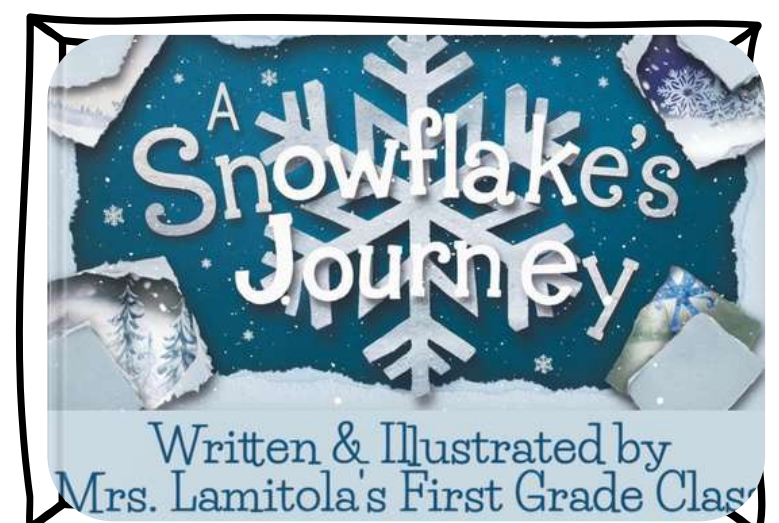
Students throughout the SCSD have been learning about the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Students created murals and wrote dreams for themselves, which included, "Make new friends", "Be kind to everyone" and "Make my community beautiful."

Students also read about the life of Dr. King and his impact on the Civil Rights movement.



A SNOWFLAKE'S JOURNEY

With the help of Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Lamitola's first grade class at Tackan Elementary created a book from beginning to end. The students have been learning about what it takes to become an author and illustrator through the teachings of Geodes decodable books. Mrs. Manning scanned their artwork into Book Creator. The students were able to type their story and add their voice to each page. Read "A Snowflake's Journey" [HERE](#).



CURRICULUM CORNER

FIRST LEGO ROBOTICS COMPETITION!

The Smithtown Robotics Team hosted not one but two First LEGO League competitions recently at Great Hollow Middle School. Teams from around the region competed in an exciting and educational event on Jan. 11-12.

The SCSD had six teams represented: Nesaquake Middle School, coached by Brian Sheridan; Accomsett Middle School coached by technology teachers Melannie Hill and Logan Theodorou; and Great Hollow Middle School coached by technology teachers Connor Kelly and Caitlin Caputo. The Middle School Robotics program is part of the CTE Technology Department, under the guidance of CTE Director Christine LoFrese.

Teams showcased their innovative robots, designed to tackle complex tasks in a fun and collaborative environment. The event featured multiple qualification matches from each team as well as “Innovation Projects” where teams researched an existing issue related to aquatic and marine life and attempted to design and present a solution to judges.

There were impressive performances from student teams, all working toward the shared goal of earning a spot in the next phase of the competition. The event was filled with teamwork, problem-solving and a true spirit of STEM education, with many teams earning awards for design, innovation and teamwork.



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

OH, THE HORROR!

Students in Mr. Kuletsky's High School West Creative Writing class recently found out their submissions to a writing contest have been chosen for publication! The students were asked to write a captivating mini saga in fewer than 100 words, and submit their work to the Fright Club—Enter If You Dare (Young Writers, est. 1991) horror writing contest. Congratulations to all!

Pictured left to right: Robert Kuletsky, Noah Millar, Jet Macalinao, Mira Benigno, Olivia Cory, Paula Araujo Parra, Lianella Pacura, Tiernan O'Rourke, Abigail Nelson



AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

High School East students, Avery Nasta and Dahani Woodward and High School West students, Kate Braun and Joseph Davide have been named recipients of the National School Development Council (NSDC) Award, which exemplifies academic growth and student leadership.

This award is presented to high school seniors who have consistently pursued a high level of academic effort and have also served as positive role models for their student body. Recipients of the award exemplify admirable character and accomplishment.

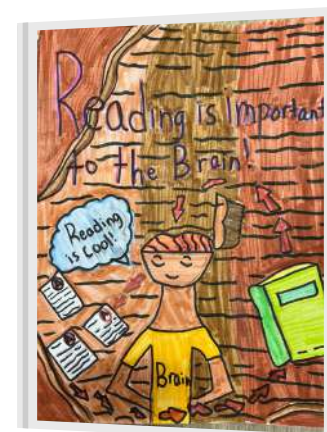
Congratulations and kudos to guidance counselors, Patricia Coppola, Isabella Aviles and Michele Randall.



READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

Great Hollow Middle School sixth grade student, Vivian Santiago, was one of 12 winners statewide in a new contest that challenged children to express their thoughts on why literacy is critical to health and wellness. The inaugural Every Child Reads Student Awards, coordinated by the New York State PTA, received 55 submissions from K-12 students, asked participants to create a poster, video or essay in response to the question "Why is reading important to your health and wellness?"

Vivian, who has won several art awards, says her motivation for the contest was her younger brother. "My brother loves books. He loves ELA," Vivian told us. "Reading is good for your brain."



Congratulations, Vivian and thank you to ELA teacher, Mary Ellen Nelson.



COMMUNITY NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Students at Dogwood, Mount Pleasant and Mills Pond elementary schools celebrated the new year with food, music, dancing and fun!

Many students have also worked with teachers to set goals for the second half of the school year and a plan to achieve those goals.

Thank you to our wonderful school PTA groups for helping to start 2025 off right!



A HELPING HAND

The holidays were a lot brighter for children at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, thanks to the Accomsett Middle School Art Department!

More than 125 laminated bookmarks, approximately 26 framed 5x7 paintings, and a number of paintings on wood plaques were donated to the hospital to help brighten the days of children staying at the hospital.

This initiative was strictly for donation purposes, focusing on art for a cause, and students do not receive additional credit for their contributions.

Bravo!



JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

There are several openings in the Smithtown Central School District. Those interested can submit a letter, resume, and two professional references to Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Neil Katz at: employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

**JOIN
OUR TEAM**

Special Education Aides: various shifts available for all levels including elementary, middle and high schools.
\$20.39 per hour. Minimum 3 hours per day.

Elementary School Monitors: shifts are 2.25-2.5 hours per day between 11:45 AM-2:15 PM. \$17.00 per hour.

Food Service Worker and Custodial Worker positions also available.

- > NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- > WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR
- > SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF

SEND A RESUME AND LETTER OF INTEREST TO: EMPLOYMENT@SMITHTOWN.K12.NY.US
TO APPLY OR CALL (631) 382-2170 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



SPORTS ZONE

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Congratulations to the Accomsett Middle School cross country team, the Nesaquake Middle School field hockey team, and the Great Hollow Middle School girls soccer team for each earning the highest team GPA in their respective schools for the fall season!

The teams were recognized on three separate occasions by the Smithtown Booster Club for their tremendous work on and off the field.



MADE FOR TV!

Congratulations to H.S. West senior swimmer, Emma Phillips, on being featured as a News 12 Long Island scholar athlete! Emma is a captain, state champ, county finalist, science award winner, EMT and violin player.

Click [HERE](#) to see Emma's segment.



SUPER SHOUT OUT!

Great Hollow Middle School girls volleyball teams just finished two amazing seasons.

The "red" team was a perfect 10-0 and the "blue" team had a record of 9-1!

AMAZING!

Congratulations to the team and head coaches, Al Nucci and Ashley Marchese.

