



# Perspectives

The Principal's Newsletter

October 31, 2013

Volume VI, Issue I

Dear High School East Community:

Welcome back to another year at High School East! Although it seems like we just started, there is a lot of exciting news to share. Many changes have occurred since last school year. We welcomed three new administrators, all coming from different posts in the district. They have been out and about getting to know the students and staff and are adjusting extremely well. In addition, we have very few new teachers on staff this year but we welcomed some veteran teachers from other buildings in Half Hollow Hills. All of the staff members are excited about our work here this year!

Students have been very active in the first few months of school here at High School East. Teachers and their students are digging into their coursework and exploring learning opportunities both in and outside of the classroom. For example, the new Senior Experience Program is already exceeding our expectations with the unique block scheduled, humanities-styled, co-teaching, and real world experience approach to learning.

Fall Sports teams have fared very well this season. Clubs and other groups have been building their memberships and planning activities. Our homecoming was very early this year and everyone rose to the occasion. The pep rally, parade, homecoming game and class competition night were enjoyed by all!

The Freshman class of 2017 appears to be blending in just fine. We encourage everyone new to the school to get involved in activities. There are numerous clubs, activities, teams and events in which to take part. We believe that High School East should be more than a place to "go to school" but more of a second home to students where they further develop their lives. Parents encourage your children to become a part of the school and make it their own. Also, if anyone is not having such a great transition, they should seek out any of the number of staff members who are here to help students. Students should get to know their teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists and administrators. There are also students in the Peer Ambassador program who are always willing to assist other students in need.

I wish everyone the best for the 2013-14 School Year.

The tradition of excellence will continue!

**Remember Respect, Responsibility and Excellence!**

**J. A. Woodberry**  
Principal

## The Insider's View

*Scholar Artists.....Page 2*

*Student Spotlight.....Page 2*  
*Jennifer Wang*

*Student Spotlight.....Page 3*  
*Taylor Hamilton*

*"The Arts" News....Pages 4-5*

*2013 Homecoming..... Page 6*

*Making Strides.....Page 6*

*Senior Experience.....Page 7*

*Food Festival.....Page 8*

*Teacher Award.....Page 8*

*Fall Sports Recap.....Page 9*

*School Vision.....Page 10*



## Three H.S.E. Students Named Long Island Scholar Artists

Congratulations to Sarah Sampino, Cara Jacobson, and Amanda Milberg for being named Long Island Scholar Artists for the 2013-2014 school year. This honor recognizes students who excel academically and in the areas of either music, visual arts, dance, theatre, or media arts. Along with the prestigious award, a kickoff event took place at High School East on Wednesday, September 18th, introducing the entire class of Scholar-Artists to the Media. Each student was also



acknowledged in Newsday, with a photo along side a student profile. At the conclusion of the school year, Sarah, Cara, and Amanda will be honored once more at a reception sponsored by the *Tilles Center for the Performing Arts*. The date, time and other information will be determined at a later date. High School East congratulates these three for a job well done!

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## Student Qualifies for the International Earth Science Team



On behalf of the entire High School East school community, congratulations to Jennifer Wang on her qualification for the United States International Earth Science Olympiad Team! This incredible achievement was announced by the United States Selection Committee, and gave Jennifer the opportunity to travel to Mysore, India to take part in research with students from 27 different countries. The group of international students conducted field research regarding a current issue facing India, and presented their findings to a group of local scientists and political leaders. Topics included the rising number of floods, landslides, earthquakes, and typhoons. Also in attendance along side Jennifer,

were more than 24 world-class scientists including members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. While in India, Jennifer earned a bronze medal for her part in an International Team field investigation. Great job Jennifer, High School East is proud of your achievements.

## Student Spotlight: Taylor Hamilton 2014 National Achievement Scholarship Semi-Finalist



Congratulations to Taylor Hamilton for his newest accomplishments here at High School East. Taylor was recently elected Eastern Regional Teen President of the Jack & Jill of America organization. Jack & Jill of America is a leadership organization whose goal is to empower young adults, and inspire them to do something great. This organization, according to Taylor himself, is a way to increase the number of positive role models in his life, and has given him the opportunity to take part in special activities and trips to help build his character as a human being. The group

is also one of the nation's oldest African American organizations. Taylor has become the 1st Eastern Regional Teen President from the Suffolk County's chapter. Along with his many titles, Taylor has recently illustrated and co-authored a children's story book commemorating the memory of Carole Robertson, a former member of the Birmingham chapter of Jack & Jill. Carole Robertson was one of the victims in the well-known Birmingham church bombing 50 years ago. The book is entitled, *Seven Days With Carole*, and was created by using the computer program Painttool Sai.

The cover signifies the posthumous Congressional gold medal awarded by President Obama this year to the four girls who died in the bombing. Taylor also won the gold medal in the oratory division in the local NAACP completion, and most recently his third Up the Hill Art Contest. Along with his wonderful achievements throughout the Jack & Jill foundation, Taylor has been named a 2014 National Achievement Scholarship Semi-Finalist. In his own words, "Procrastination is the enemy. I hope other students will follow their dreams as I have, through hard work and determination, anything is possible." We are extremely proud of his accomplishments, keep up the amazing work Taylor!





## “THE ARTS” NEWS

### National Art Honor Society at Zombie Day

The Hills East Chapter of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) teamed up with West Hollow Middle School to help make Zombie Day extra ghoulish! Members of the NAHS were on hand at the Back to School Dance on Friday, September 27 to assist students by applying zombie inspired make up. Drawing and painting students as well as a photographer for the event, Josh Zegans, grade 11, collaborated with middle school students to add some scare to the party. Mrs. Uttendorfer teamed up with the Zombie Day founder, art teacher Matt Petrucci, to unite students through this fun event.

- Article Submitted by Allyson Uttendorfer



### Half Hollow Hills Musicians Attend John Coltrane Home Fundraiser

On Sunday, October 6th select music students were given the opportunity to attend a fundraiser at the EN Japanese Brasserie in Manhattan hosted by Carlos Santana. The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise money for the John Coltrane Home on Candlewood Path in Dix Hills which was once the home of legendary jazz saxophonist, John Coltrane. Coltrane is considered to be one of the most influential American composers of all time.

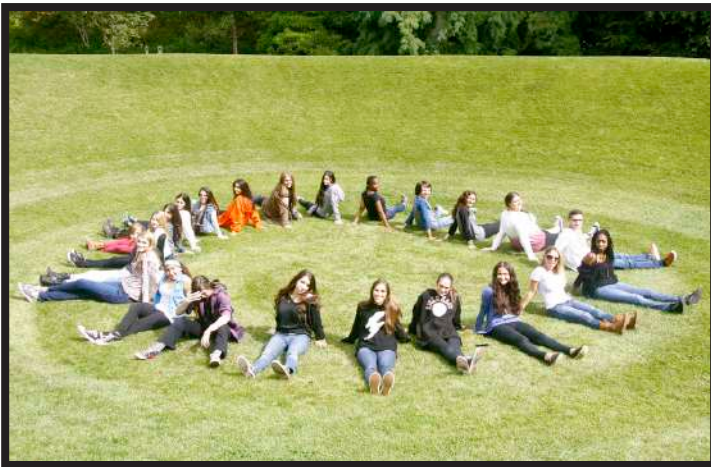
Steve Fulgoni, who is the father of two saxophonists who graduated from Hills West, is a Vice President for the Save the Coltrane Home Foundation and was able to invite a small number of Tri-M Music Honor Society students from the two high schools as guests. A few years ago, High School East's Tri-M, advised by Mrs. Benstock, donated all proceeds from their "Night of Jazz" Fundraiser to the home. *(continued on page 5)*

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High School East students who were selected to be in attendance at this event were Jonathan Bodian, guitar; Marshall Kears, trumpet; Veronica Fox, vocals; and Josh Karmel, bass, tuba and vocals. The students were in awe of being near such great musicians and had an amazing time. They were able to mingle with such greats as Carlos Santana, Ravi Coltrane (who performed with his quartet), Elvis Costello, Jimmy Heath, and Cornel West, just to name a few.

The fundraiser was a great success and the foundation has made great strides in repairing the home. The hope is that one day it will be open to the public as a museum. This year Tri-M has decided to donate the proceeds from our annual "Coffeehouse Night" to the Coltrane Home again. Please come out to support Tri-M on Friday, February 7, 2014 for a night of great music, coffee and baked treats!

*- Article Submitted by Monica Benstock*



## **East End Field Trip a Success!**

This September, Mrs. Uttendorfer's Photography II students went on an artistic adventure in the East End of Long Island. Students loaded up their 35mm camera's with film and others grabbed their digital camera's before heading out to the bus. The class started their trip at the Parrish Art Museum where they participated in a guided tour of the permanent and changing collections. Abstract art was discussed and students were fascinated by the Museum's architecture and oversized barn structure. Students had time to photograph on site at the local farm before the last stop: The Long House Reserve. This home and gardens serves as a study center of the balance between nature and 21st Century Art; there is a natural integration of both. Students were allowed to take pictures and discover the large scale and intimate earthen works on a tour of the property. It was a wonderful experience and opportunity to appreciate the arts that are right here on Long Island.

*- Article Submitted by Allyson Uttendorfer*



# HOMECOMING WEEK 2013



On Saturday, Sept 28th, High School East celebrated its annual Homecoming with a flurry of festivities that started with a pep rally Friday afternoon, and ended with Competition Night on Saturday. At the culmination of Competition night we crowned our Homecoming King and Queen, Matthew Boyd and Lisa Diasparra. Thanks to the hard work of Student Government and H.S.E. administration, the weekend was a huge success. Students decorated floats, created dances, and showed their pride by purchasing over 300 class shirts. It was a great weekend from start to finish.

*- Article Submitted by Brooke Helmes*



## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

On Sunday, October 20th, over 100 students and one dozen additional members of the HSE family took time out of their weekend to spend it with a few thousand others. The clock read seven am and the temperature said 42 degrees, but that didn't stop anyone from lining up by the flagpole to board a school bus to the beach. That's right...the beach! Every year, several thousand people gather on a brisk October morning to Make Strides Against Breast Cancer at Jones Beach in Wantagh. Every year, over a million dollars is raised, and every year we get one step closer to a cure. For the tenth year, the HSE community participated in this event, raising over \$3,000 annually toward the ultimate goal. It may have been cold, but our hearts were warmed by the sea of pink with which we were met. It is not every day that this many people unite to fight back against something that has, unfortunately, touched us all. I am proud to have served as the Hills East team captain once again, and I continue to lead the charge in the fight against breast cancer. To all of those who walked, to all of those who donated, to all of those who simply thought of us on that cold, October morning – thank you.

*- Article Submitted by Nicole Dalton*



## A New Course at High School East

### WE FOUND THE *CURE* TO "SENIORITIS"!



### ***"WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN"***

The Senior Experience is a new, innovative program that allows seniors to "experience" what it is like in the real world. In the classroom students learn humanities and read texts that relate to the lesson. For the business aspect of the program, students learn helpful, real world skills such as writing résumés. Twice a week students in Senior Experience leave school to attend internships that require students to learn about a job field in which they are interested in. Every Wednesday, Mr. Breig, Mrs. Silberman, and Mr. Cappiello bring all the students in the program together for group activities. The food fest on October 9th, and taking the students on educational (but *FUN*) field trips like the tenement museum on October 2nd are examples of the fun activities that they plan for us! - **Article and Logo Design Submitted by Jake Rachlin**

*"Senior Experience actually teaches me about real life stuff like how to write a resume."*

**- Bryson Owens**

*"A real world preview of what's in store."*

**- Amanda Nicholson**

*"Senior Experience changes your perspective on life."*

**- Brian Tolep**

*"I've learned more during my Senior Experience internship than I could have ever learned within the four walls of High School East."*

**- Katie Farello**

*"I like participating in the real world instead of learning in a classroom."*

**- Matthew Borkan**

*"Senior Experience has given me a taste of different cultures and diversities in our community."*

**- Jen Dejana**

*"Not only am I learning new things, but learning how people operate in the real world."*

**- Marissa Fitlin**

*"Senior Experience gives you a head start, giving you the opportunity to explore different occupations."*

**- Quentin America**

*"Teaching Senior Experience has been great. We are able to get the students involved 'hands-on' through guest speakers, field trips, and other exciting events. It has changed the way I look at teaching!"*

**- Mr. Breig**

*"Senior Experience is more than a class, it has turned into a family. Although planning for our events and classes has been time consuming, the experience and the opportunity to get to know each student have been so worth my time and effort."*

**- Ms. Silberman**





## The “Taste of Immigration” Food Fest

Last Wednesday, October 9, Senior Experience hosted their first in-school event to celebrate the diversity of the students that make up Senior Experience. Our unit topic of study has focused on immigration. Looking back on early immigration of the late 1800s and early 1900s into the United States inspired us to look into our own cultural backgrounds. Paired with the reading of *97 Orchard*, a memoir that shares the personal journey of five immigrant families living in one tenement building and the food they ate upon arriving in America, Senior Experience students took to their kitchens to prepare dishes which represent their own heritage and to share

these delicious foods with each other and the staff at High School East. Students worked with small groups, talked to family members, and uncovered recipes from the past to prepare for our Taste of Immigration Food Fest. The day was busy from dropping off food in the morning, to heating up dishes and setting up the cafeteria in the afternoon, and finally serving and explaining their individual dishes to students and teachers who joined us at the food fest. And of course, everyone got to taste all the delectable dishes from around the world. The day was a huge success thanks to all the Senior Experience students and their hard work to make it possible. Senior Experience would also like to thank Ms. Wolff for allowing us to use the kitchen, the cafeteria and custodial staff for helping with set up and clean up, as well as Dr. Woodberry and the administrators of High School East for your support. We would also like to thank the Central Office Administrative team; Kelly Fallon, John O’Farrell, and Lorraine Lupinskie for attending the event.

*- Article Submitted by Cortney Silberman*

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## H.S.E. Teacher Honored

High School East Social Studies teacher, Cynthia Cullen, has been nominated for the University of Chicago’s Outstanding Educator Award. Each year, the University receives letters back from hundreds of students, inspired by teachers who have literally changed the course of their lives. These teachers have taught them to re-imagine texts, to delve deeper into problem solving, and to think beyond the borders of the classroom in the pursuit of their own education.

*Congratulations to Ms. Cullen and all of her accomplishments.*





## FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

It was a successful fall season for the Half Hollow Hills East Thunderbirds. On the hard courts, the girls tennis team finished the regular season 15-0 and went on to win the Suffolk County Championship. The boys cross country team also had an undefeated regular season en route to their League III and Division II championships. Other playoff-bound teams include the boys soccer team who finished the season at 8-6-1, the girls volleyball team with a 9-6 record, and girls gymnastics that finished 4th overall in Suffolk County. The boys volleyball team also made the playoffs, with a 12-5 overall record and 8-4 in league play. Congratulations to all!





## Half Hollow Hills High School East

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Principal's Newsletter  
Volume VI, Issue I

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Our school community is a collaborative and positive environment in which we take pride. We strive to ensure that there are opportunities and equity for all. Our students are inspired to achieve academic **EXCELLENCE** by our professional, committed staff. We cultivate an environment of student-centered, relevant, lifelong learning. We expect our students to display strong character encompassing leadership, **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESPECT** for others as they prepare to be productive citizens in our global society. We believe these ideals contribute to our students maximizing their full potential.

### RESPECT

Treat everyone you encounter with courtesy and respect. It should be evident from your actions that integrity and goodwill are your intentions. Carry yourself in a manner that you can be proud of and that commands respect. In return, expect nothing less from others.

### RESPONSIBILITY

Enjoy freedom and accept the responsibility which accompanies it. Take initiative. Complete all tasks presented to you. Be accountable for your actions. Should you falter or make a mistake, be resilient and make amends. Do not ever become a master of excuses.

### EXCELLENCE

Make an honest endeavor to do your best under all circumstances. Welcome challenges. Do not settle for mediocrity. Let your desire to succeed, determination and perseverance distinguish you from others. Strive to go beyond your own expectations, which should clearly put you far ahead of anyone else's expectations of you. Surpassing goals must become a part of your character.

Xef 2012

Interested in submitting an article to *Perspectives*?  
Want to share wonderful news about High School East?

Go to the *High School East website*, click on the *Newsletter Tab* found in the left column, and *follow the link to submit*.

You can also email Mr. Wiley directly.

All prospective articles and ideas will be reviewed,  
but not all submissions will be published.