

THE WEST WEEKLY



November 22, 2024

West Students Earn High Honors at the Business Olympics

On Thursday November 20th the Smithtown School of Business hosted its 30th annual Business Olympics. Over the last 30 years the students have been tasked with creating marketing campaigns, new products, eco-friendly businesses and imagining the 21st century classroom. This year's theme was "Smithtown's Petpalooza" and the students did not disappoint. The students had to come up with a marketing campaign for a new product or service for a pet. We also partnered with Paws of War and collected donations for the organization. There were over 200 students who competed from Smithtown High School East and West with 56 teams representing the schools.





Nita Lleshaj Named as a Finalist of the National STEM Festival Challenge

Nita Lleshaj was named as a Finalist of the National STEM Festival Challenge, one of 8 finalists in New York State. Her research project is in using zophobas atratus larva, aka superworms, to biodegrade several types of plastic. She has analyzed the gut biome of those larva and is now investigating a few select bacteria from that biome and their ability to degrade the same plastics.



Lucca Twins Propel Smithtown/Happauge Swimming and Diving Team to County Championship

Smithtown West freshmen Sarah and Julia Lucca were instrumental in helping the Girls Swimming and Diving Team capture the Suffolk County Championship. Sarah won the 100 free in 51.9 and Julia won the 100 backstroke in 56.23. Both girls also swam on the county championship winning 200 medley and 200 free relay teams. Congratulations to all of the Girls Swimming and Diving Team members on an incredible accomplishment! Go Bulls!



Smithtown High School West College Oceans classes recently embarked on an unforgettable field trip to the Outdoor Learning Lab and beach at Sunken Meadow State Park. Students engaged in hands-on learning by designing, engineering, and piloting Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and were challenged to complete a series of tasks in the water to test their newly acquired skills. Each group crafted an "elevator pitch" for their ROV, demonstrating their creativity while adhering to a budget.

In addition to the engineering challenges, students participated in a beach cleanup, contributing to the preservation of our beautiful coastline. They also had the opportunity to participate in a training exercise presented by the dedicated staff at the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMSEAS) demonstrating the important steps to take when encountering cold stunned sea turtles that frequently wash up on Long Island's beaches if waters cool too quickly before the sea turtles have migrated south for winter.

This experience not only introduced students to volunteer and career opportunities and enhanced their understanding of marine technology and conservation but also fostered a sense of responsibility towards our environment. We're proud of their hard work, enthusiasm and community service! College credit through SUNY Stony Brook is available to students taking this course.





Family and Consumer Science Teachers and Students Treat the Faculty to Thanksgiving Lunch

Sameha Vundecord Wins Grant for Engineering Project

Sameha Vundecord a 10th grade Science Research student at HSW this year recently won a grant for her work designing an enhanced walking stick for visually impaired individuals.

Sameha sees this as a great opportunity for her to combine her interest in engineering with her goal of making a positive impact in our community. Upon receiving the grant Sameha said, "I am very thankful for Mrs. Plante and Mr. Snyder for their guidance in helping me reach this achievement!"

