

*An Environment for Effective Teaching & Learning Volume 2, Issue 25 3/29/19*

## HIGH SCHOOL NINTH AND TENTH GRADERS TAKE A TRIP TO NEW JERSEY TO VISIT THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY AND PRINCETON

Approximately 50 ninth and tenth graders from the high school went on a special trip on March 25th. They visited The College of New Jersey in Ewing Township, NJ. They also visited Princeton University.

The purpose of this trip was to provide ninth and tenth grade students with exposure to two different college campuses. Students were able to tour each campus, participate in admissions information sessions and eat lunch in a campus dining hall.

Thank you to Dr. Probst, Assistant to the Superintendent for Educational Services and Student Outcomes, for organizing this trip!



*Touring the Campus of  
The College of New Jersey!*



**TCNJ** THE COLLEGE OF  
NEW JERSEY



*Visiting the College Store*

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Touring the Campus of  
Princeton University



Visiting the College Store



PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY



## EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS TAKE A COLLEGE TOUR AT QUINNIPIAC AND YALE UNIVERSITIES

The entire eighth grade class was treated to a great visit to two prestigious universities on Wednesday, March 27th. The class visited Yale University and then it was on to Quinnipiac University where they were able to cheer on the Quinnipiac Bobcats at a Lacrosse game.

Here are some photos from their exciting and life-changing day!



Touring the Campus of  
Yale University



Yale University



Visiting the College Store

Quinnipiac University  
Lacrosse Game



**Quinnipiac**  
UNIVERSITY



# "TEACHER SPOTLIGHT"

Christine Walsh

French Teacher  
High School



Omaha Beach, France

Why did you want to become a teacher?

*I knew by the time I was in 2nd grade that I wanted to become a teacher because I wanted to help and work with kids. I never even considered another profession.*

Where did you go to college?

*I did my undergraduate work at Dowling College and then studied in France at l'Université Catholique de l'Ouest where I became fluent in French.*

What did you like about college?

*It was a really long time ago, but I can remember how I always felt like the professors really wanted us to succeed and how the students were always very supportive of each other rather than trying to knock each other down.*

What is the best part of your job?

*It's really corny, but making a difference in someone's life. You don't always know until years later that you helped someone. Any time I receive an email or a thank you from a student, I keep it in a binder so that on difficult days, I can look at it and remember why I'm here and that it's all worthwhile.*

How long have you been teaching?

*I feel like I have always been teaching. I started teaching dance at 17 and from there, I never really stopped. Just the subject changed.*

Do you have any traditions or superstitions regarding the first day of school?

*Not really. I just try to avoid going over all the rules the first day. I'd rather spend that time getting to know my students and having them speak about things that interest them rather than focusing on everything that they're not allowed to do.*

What makes a good day at school for you?

*That depends. Some of my best days at school have had more to do with a student's personal success rather than an academic one.*

What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

*I'm always proud of my students when they do their best. It doesn't matter to me what the grade is, as long as they put all of their effort into it. I'm also proud of how the French Club brings together kids outside of the classroom.*



How does technology make teaching more simple or difficult?

*Sometimes I think we feel so pressured to use the latest technology, that we forget that the simple things usually have the most positive impact. As a language teacher it is vital for me to teach students about making personal connections such as making appropriate eye contact when speaking, greeting people properly or even table manners. People are so involved in looking down at a screen nowadays that they forget to look up and see what's happening around them.*

If you could sit in on another teachers class for a day, who would it be and why?

*I couldn't pick just one because every teacher offers a unique experience. There's something to be learned from everyone.*

Is there a piece of wisdom you would pass on to your students?

*Don't give up! Life is going to throw some really difficult things at you, but it always gets better. When you fall, pick yourself up, brush yourself off, and keep going. Learn and grow from the things that happen to you.*

If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would it be?

*That's an easy one... France and then everywhere else! It's through travel that we really see things from other people's perspectives and better appreciate what we have.*

What is one of your best memories of being a student?

*I met my best friend in the 8th grade and we are still best friends to this day, so that would have to be my favorite moment even though I didn't realize how it would impact my life at the time.*

Do you have a favorite thing about your classroom?

*I have a lot of decorations and pictures of my students which makes it feel like a more welcoming environment.*

What advice would you give to new teachers

*Don't get so wrapped up in the paperwork that you forget what teaching is really about.*

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

*They would probably be surprised about a lot of things because I don't share personal information with a lot of people. When I was younger, I was a live-in nanny for royalty.*

What word would describe you best when you were a student?

*That depends on what class I was in. Math- frustrated, French- happy*

Do you have any favorite books you would recommend to students to read?

*Le Petit Prince, but read it in French because it's better than in English. The nuances of the language sometimes get a little lost in translation.*

Why did you choose Hauppauge Schools?

*I thought it would be a good fit for me and I've been here for 21 years so I was definitely right.*

Thank you, Madame Walsh, for a lovely interview!



## PINES STUDENTS GET PREPARED AND LEARN VALUABLE, LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

On March 21st, Pines 5th grade students had the opportunity to learn Compression Only CPR and had an introduction to AED use by Mrs. Acompora and staff from the Louis J. Acompora Memorial Foundation. This foundation has been instrumental in raising awareness among schools, sport venues and other public institutions about the importance of owning automated external defibrillators (AED) to be better prepared to respond to sudden cardiac events.

Pines 5th grade students were able to practice performing compressions and using an AED machine on several "Rescue Annes", which were in the form of a human head and chest. In addition, Mrs. Acompora demonstrated how to perform the Heimlich Manuver.

Louis J. Acompora was a 14 year old student athlete who played Lacrosse. During his first high school game on March 25, 2000 he suffered a blow to the chest which resulted in his death. He died from a condition know as "Commotio Cortis." This fatal condition quickly leads to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). It is a poorly recognized and under-reported event that affects healthy young athletes. A simple device known as an automated external defibrilator (AED) would have saved Louis' life. Following his tragic death, the Louis J. Acompora Memorial Foundation has dedicated its mission to raising awareness among schools and other public institutions about the importance of owning automated external defibrillators (AED's).

This program was extremely informative and the students were eager to participate in learning valuable life saving skills!

If you would like to learn more about the Louis J. Acompora Foundation and the condition "Commotio Cortis" please [click here](#) to visit their website.



Taking Our Children Out of Harm's Way



## BRETTON WOODS THIRD GRADE STUDENTS PROUDLY FEATURE THEIR “CREATURES”

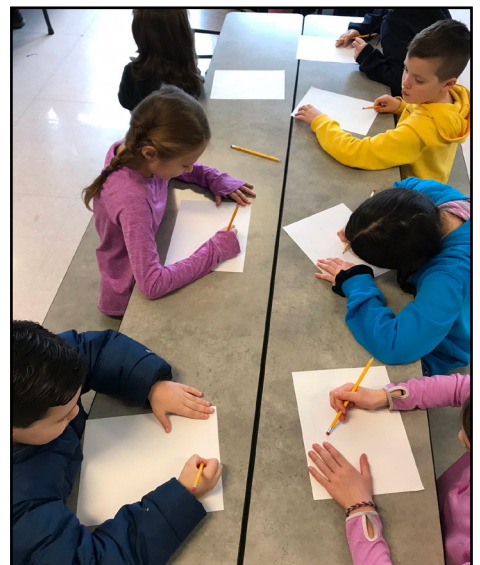
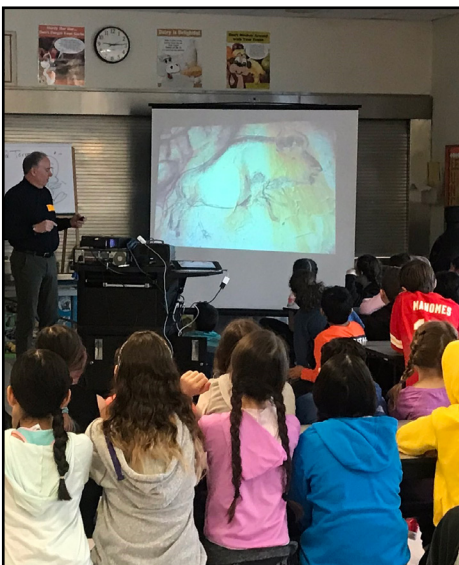
Third Grade students in Mrs. Trapanotto's class proudly display their “Creature Offspring”. As part of the new “Amplify Science Program,” third graders are learning about Inheritance and Traits. Students followed a genetic code pattern to design offspring (out of modeling clay) that had combined traits from the “Parent Creatures” modeled in the unit.



Mrs. Trapanotto's Third Grade Class

## FOREST BROOK FOURTH GRADERS HAVE SPECIAL VISITOR

Forest Brook students were recently treated to a visit by a very special guest. Richard Torrey is the author/illustrator of fifteen books and the illustrator of dozens more. He took the children through the process of writing and illustrating a book. The students were even able to learn to draw Snoopy! Thank you, Mr. Torrey, for this special visit!





## DR. DENNIS P. O'HARA, SUPERINTENDENT, OFFERS WORDS OF ADVICE IN WAKE OF THE RECENT COLLEGE SCANDAL

Recently, one of Hauppauge's notable graduates, Lori Loughlin, among others, was indicted on felony charges after being caught in a college admissions cheating scheme. A total of 50 people nationwide were charged and it is the largest college admissions scam ever prosecuted by the Department of Justice. Those arrested include exam administrators, coaches at elite schools and nearly three dozen parents.

Dr. O'Hara, Superintendent of Schools at Hauppauge, recently spoke to Donna Deedy, a reporter for TBR Newsmedia. Here is his interview below.

*People everywhere are talking about the celebrity college admission cheating scandal, since more than 50 people were indicted last week on felony charges. Television actress Lori Loughlin — voted mostly likely to succeed in Hauppauge High School class of '82 — was among those arrested. The situation has turned tragic for her family and the other people involved. But, as people in education often say in the face of crisis, "Let's make this a valuable teaching moment."*



*Dennis O'Hara, superintendent for Hauppauge School District, agreed to respond to a few questions about the situation. Here's his advice to the community:*

*What lessons can be learned about self-worth?*

*The greatest lesson here is that one's self-worth is an inside job, meaning it comes from within. If one feels less than another, or inadequate, being handed something or gaining an advantage through cheating, is when feelings of inadequacy only increase. Low self-worth is erased only through hard work and perseverance. In life, we deserve what we earn — nothing more, nothing less.*

*I'd like to add that integrity is priceless. Once it is given up it cannot easily be regained. In this case, the integrity of these parents, and possibly more importantly, of their children is severely compromised — in a very public way. I hope they, and current high school students, realize it was not worth it.*

*What messages do you want high school seniors and families in the community at-large to take away from this situation?*

*I would like our students to understand there is a sense of pride and real peace in rejoicing in accomplishments that are earned. Life is about a sense of purpose, about finding a calling and striving to be the best one can be in that purpose.*

*It's less important to measure oneself against others than it is to strive for one's own dreams. I have four sons, and I often remind them life will be filled with challenges, but there is no glory in the accomplishment if it was without difficulty. In essence, having something handed to you does not build self-worth.*

*I often say it is not about where one is at the moment that matters, but where one is headed that counts. Each day be better than the day before and everything else will take care of itself.*

*Regarding college admissions, parents should not look for the best window sticker. Instead, they should help their children find the college or university that is the best fit. I can tell you from personal experience this approach relieves a great deal of stress for the parents and the child. In Hauppauge, we embrace this philosophy and are proud of the effort our students are putting forth.*

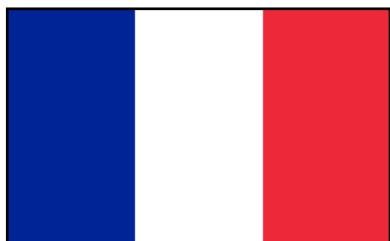
*One last thought regarding parenting and college admissions is that I would much prefer to be judged by the kind of men my sons have become than by the college they attended.*



# 20th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2019



Bonjour from Christine Walsh, Danielle Cardi, Geronima Maura-Rayo and Mary Beth Tiedemann, High School Language Club Advisors!

It's that time of year again! Please join us for the 20th Annual International Night! International Night was designed to promote cultural awareness, acceptance, and understanding of other customs and cultures. This event is run by the students in the French, German, and Spanish Clubs. Each club member prepares a dish connected to his/her own culture and there are different cultural performances presented by the students. Please let your students know about this great event!

We will begin selling raffle tickets next week, but here is a preview of some of the prizes that have already come in:

#### International Night Raffle Prizes

(Tickets are \$1 each- You don't need to be present to win!)

For Hauppauge School District employees, if you would like to purchase raffle tickets, email Christine Walsh and she will get them to you! More prizes arriving every day...

- \$350 Gift Certificate (One free week of summer camp) to New Beginnings Infant Pre-School Day Care, Kings Park & Hauppauge
- 2-week session at Camp Tioga (overnight camp 2 hours from NYC) Gift basket includes t-shirt and supplies to make S'mores!
- \$50 Dunkin Donuts Gift Cards
- \$50 Gift Card, Trader Joe's
- \$40 Gift Card, Patrizia's (Pizza & Pasta Family Style), Hauppauge
- United Nations gift set: mug, pens, key chain, ornament
- 30-minute massage from The Massage Approach, Commack
- \$25 Gift Certificate to Sol Y Luna Artisan Boutique, Babylon
- \$25 Subway Gift Card
- \$25 Target Gift Card
- \$25 Towards Grooming Services, Smithaven Veterinary Hospital, St. James
- Free Manicure, Tiffany Nail Salon, Commack
- Free Manicure, Tiffany Nail Salon, Commack
- Sigma Gift Bag
- \$5 Gift Card Starbucks

We are very grateful to all of our sponsors- this would not be possible without their support. Please stop by and thank them for us! \*Branchinellis has been a supporter of this event since the first year!

*\*A portion of the proceeds for this event will go to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. Please support us and this worthy cause. You can go to [www.CCFA.org](http://www.CCFA.org) for more information about how to help.*



## BRETTON WOODS “TEDDY BEAR CLINIC” HELPS TO PREVENT INJURIES

On Wednesday, March 27th, the Bretton Woods Kindergarten students took part in a “Teddy Bear Clinic”. The “Teddy Bear Clinic” was introduced to Bretton Woods by 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Leventhal, and is an injury prevention program for children sponsored by the Trauma Center at Stony Brook Children’s Hospital.

Mrs. Leventhal’s 5th grade students help with the program and assist the kindergartners as they first learn about car and helmet safety in a fun and interactive way before dressing up as doctors and nurses to take care of their “injured” stuffed animals.

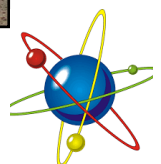
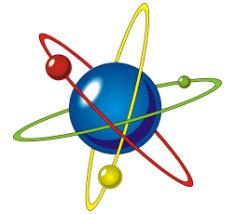
All the students had a great time learning about first aid and did a great job of patching up their little friends!





# BRETTON WOODS HOLDS SCIENCE FAIR AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Bretton Woods Elementary School held their annual Science Fair on Wednesday, March 20th. All of the students did an outstanding job on their submissions! The students who were named as winners for their projects are pictured below. Congratulations to them all on their outstanding achievements!



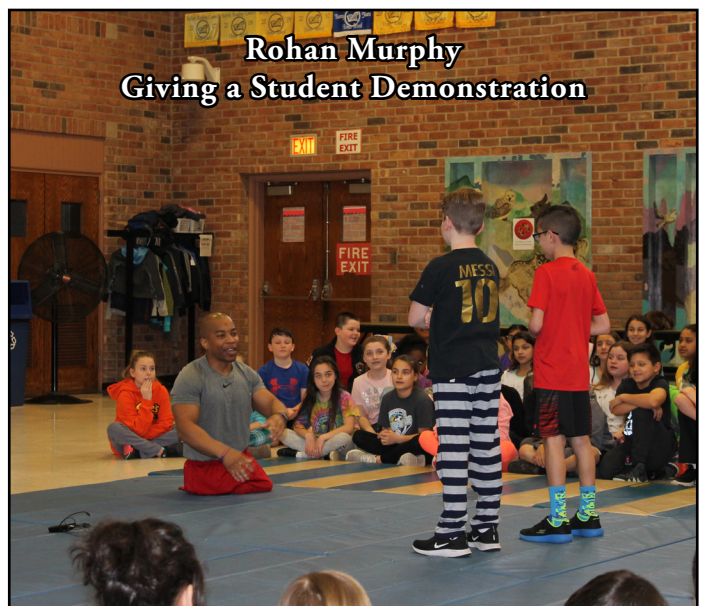


# PINES STUDENTS CELEBRATE “RESPECT FOR ALL WEEK”

By Kerry Dwyer, Pines Guidance Counselor:

During the week of March 18th, we celebrated our annual Respect For All Week here at Pines Elementary School. Respect For All week consists of a variety of building-wide activities to promote the themes of treating ourselves and others with kindness and respect. Some of these activities include “Mix It Up At Lunch” day and our “I Can, You Can, Be A Good Friend” canned food drive for the Long Island Cares Harry Chapin Food Bank.

This year, our Respect For All Week ended with a wonderful assembly presentation by Mr. Rohan Murphy, entitled “Success For Every Student.” Mr. Murphy’s story is a compelling one, with themes of grit, perseverance, inclusion, and respect. We were truly very lucky to be able to spend time hearing about Mr. Murphy’s life and many students reported that they found his story to be inspiring!





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