

BRETTON WOODS STUDENTS GET A SPECIAL VISIT FROM READERMAN!

On Friday, January 10th, Bretton Woods students looked high in the sky. It wasn't a bird, or a plane they saw. It wasn't even our Hauppauge Eagle mascot! It was Readerman!

Readerman is an incredible superhero! He flew in to share the excitement of reading with our "Super Readers." Readerman showed off his "Super Reading Powers" to the students!

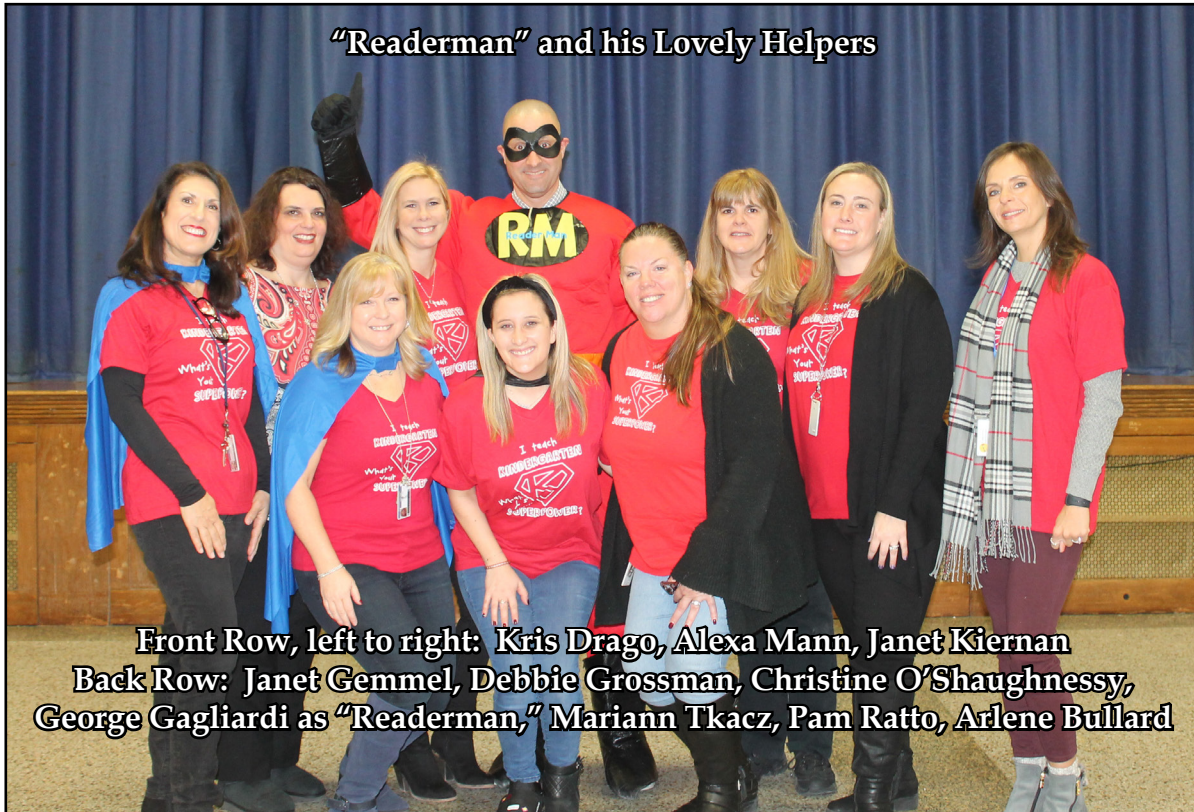
Super Readers possess many super powers. They have "Pointer power." By pointing to words, Super Readers can identify words and letters. "Sound Power" allows Super Readers to sound out the letters to form words. Super Readers possess "Re-Read Power" which allows them to reinforce their understanding of what they have already read. "Picture Power" comes in handy by giving hints to the Super Readers as to what words are with the pictures. Super Readers share "Partner Power." They can put their heads together to read the words on the page. "Pattern Power" lets Super Readers understand words and reading by seeing similar patterns in their reading. Super Readers possess "Persistence Power." They don't give up. They try all the powers again and again to reach their goal. "Snap Word Power" allows Super Readers to flesh out sentences with words they see a lot, like "I," "the," and "can." "Talk Power" helps Super Readers understand their reading by sharing what they have read with others. All these powers add up to the most valuable power, "Thinking power."

Thank you to our Kindergarten teachers, and staff, for putting on this great event for the students. Also, special thanks to Bretton Woods Principal, George Gagliardi, for his devotion to his students in bringing "Readerman" for a yearly and "super-duper" visit!



Reading Super Powers at Work!

"Readerman" and his Lovely Helpers



Front Row, left to right: Kris Drago, Alexa Mann, Janet Kiernan
Back Row: Janet Gemmel, Debbie Grossman, Christine O'Shaughnessy,
George Gagliardi as "Readerman," Mariann Tkacz, Pam Ratto, Arlene Bullard



"TEACHER SPOTLIGHT"

Margaret Govits
Grade 1
Forest Brook Elementary School



Why did you want to become a teacher?

I was born in the USA but I was raised in Greece. The teachers back then were not as tending and caring as teachers are today. I wanted to become a teacher so I could make a difference, and I wanted my students to not be afraid to ask questions and make mistakes.

Where did you go to college?

I received my undergraduate degree in K-6 Elementary Education with a psychology concentration at SUNY Old Westbury, and my Master's degree in Literacy Education at Dowling.

What did you like about college?

I loved learning new things, especially information relating to teaching, and I really enjoyed meeting new people.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is making a difference in a child's life. When I am able to help my first graders improve not only academically, but also develop a growth mindset, I feel truly excited and blessed that I have helped them.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 21 years.

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

I love reading the book "First Day Jitters" to my students, and I love watching their excited faces when they realize that the main character, that didn't want to go to school as she was scared, was not a student, but a teacher. It is important for students to realize that not only students have jitters on the first day of school, but also teachers!

What makes a good day at school for you?

A good day at school means that I have caught my students being kind, and showing empathy towards one another. Nothing makes me happier than seeing them do a kind act, and problem solve in a peaceful way.

What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

An accomplishment that fills me with pride so far this year is the fact that in just a few weeks I will have completed 60 credits above my Master's Degree. My hope is to complete 75 credits by this August.

How does technology make teaching more simple or difficult?

Technology allows teachers to differentiate instruction for students who are visual or just need information presented in a different way, so they can master a concept. Technology opens the door for learning about places that we can't possibly take a field trip to, and allows students to learn in a more interactive and collaborative way.

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

I would love to sit in Mrs. Koehler's class for a day. Mrs. Koehler is the music teacher in my building. She is truly an amazing chorus teacher, and I am just in awe when I watch her concerts. I recently attended the Stony Brook children's hospital opening day, where Mrs. Koehler and her Advanced Chorus performed. All the spectators were amazed by the students' singing and their phenomenal performance. So, since I love singing with my students, I would absolutely enjoy spending a day in her classroom!

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

Work hard and don't give up!! I want my students to know that mistakes are part of learning and growing, and if they work hard, they will succeed.

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

I would certainly take them to Greece!!! My family and I lived in NJ until I was 5 years old, and then we moved to Greece. I would love to show my students the amazing culture, the history, the traditions and of course, I would love for my students to taste authentic Greek food!

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

One of my best memories of being a student is when I was a senior in high school in Greece, and we went on a five-day senior trip to a Greek island called Rhodes. We had so much fun, and our teachers helped us learn about the island's history by taking us to many different sites.

Do you have a favorite thing about your classroom?

My favorite thing about my classroom is how cozy and colorful it is. My students' projects are displayed throughout the classroom, and the students feel very proud to know that their hard work has made our classroom a special place.

What advice would you give to new teachers?

I have had many student teachers in my 21 years of teaching. I always try to tell new teachers that the impact that they will make on their students is tremendous. I remind them that they must not only help a student succeed academically, but they also need to help a student develop socially and emotionally. If they develop a bond with their students, and they genuinely show the students that they care about them, the students will never forget them!

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

My students would be surprised to know that when I was growing up in Greece, I spent my summers in a very tiny village making carpets on a loom. Also, my students might be surprised to know that I can play a few songs on my accordion, and I crochet blankets.

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

Shy

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

I love the book, "Those Shoes" by Maribeth Boelts because it teaches children how it feels to sacrifice something that is important to them, in order to gain a lasting friendship. Jeremy, the main character in the story, gave up something he thought he had to have, in return for something he really needed: a growing friendship.

If you could meet any person, living or dead, who would that be and why?

I would love to meet Giada De Laurentiis who has a cooking show on the Food Network called, "Giada at Home." I love cooking and baking, and since she is such an amazing chef, I really enjoy watching her preparing her recipes.

Why did you choose Hauppauge Schools?

I completed my student teaching in Hauppauge, and I feel truly blessed to be teaching here for 21 years. Hauppauge provides many opportunities for students to learn and advance in different academic areas. Hauppauge Schools have set high standards for students, and as a result high school graduates are accepted to many prestige colleges. Furthermore, Hauppauge's staff are exceptional and go above and beyond to provide students with the support they need. I'm so happy that Hauppauge gave me the opportunity to be part of its elementary staff!



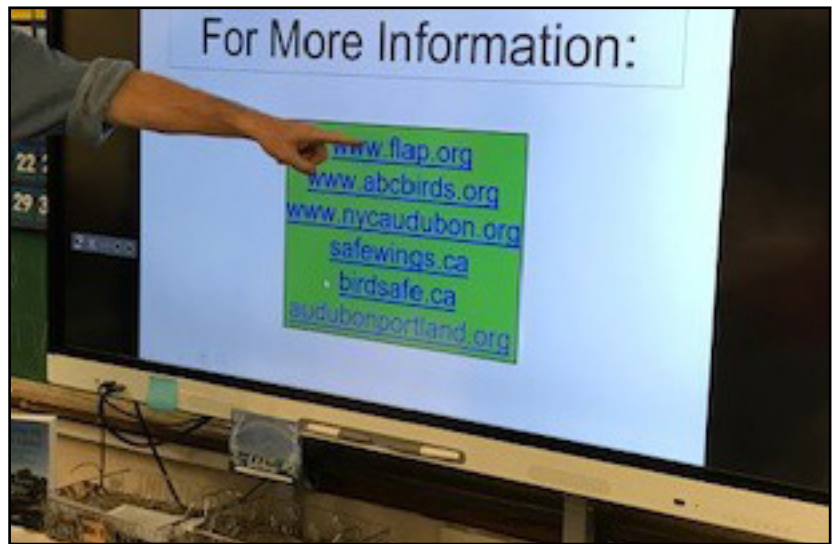
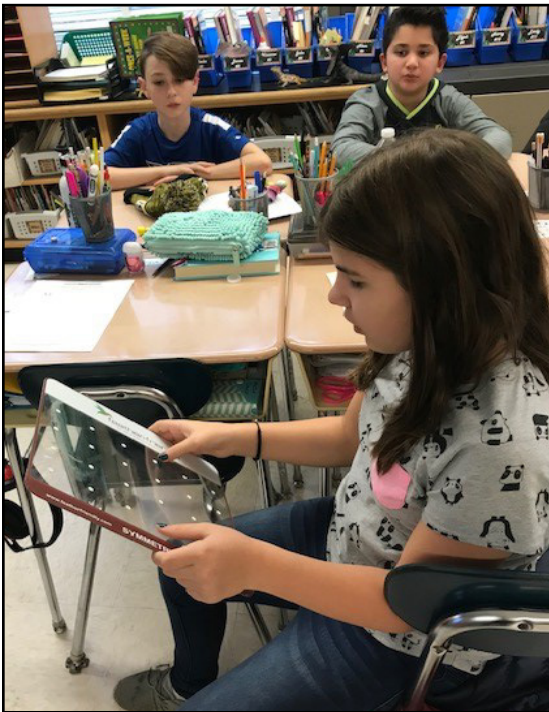
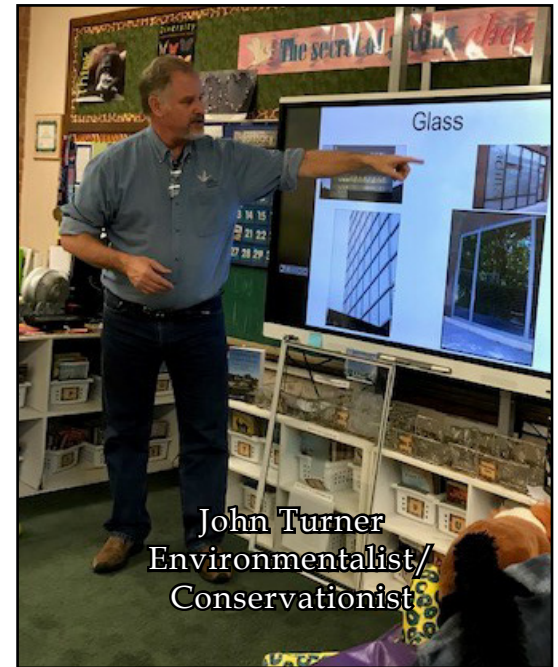
BRETTON WOODS STUDENTS ENDEAVOR TO MAKE A CHANGE THAT WILL SAVE BIRDS' LIVES

Ms. Weeks' and Ms. Dungate's fifth grade class at Bretton Woods were lucky to have John Turner from Seatuck Environmental Association come into their classroom for a visit. Mr. Turner is an environmentalist/conservationist who is also the Director of Environmental Protection for the Town of Brookhaven.

Mr. Turner came in to teach the students about ways to deter birds from hitting windows and dying by using stickers. Ms. Weeks' and Ms. Dungate's class is going to work on raising funds to purchase stickers for the windows at Bretton Woods in order to keep birds safe.

Ms. Weeks said, "We have rescued many birds that have flown into the windows at our building and hope that we can make a positive change. The students are also ready to write to Governor Cuomo in support of bird-friendly legislation."

Thank you Ms. Weeks and Ms. Dungate for sharing this important visit with us!



MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE STEM FAIR

The Middle School held their STEM Fair on Wednesday, January 8th. Here are this year's winners:

Sixth Grade

First Place: Emma Tjersland - Drug Facts: Impacts of Medicine Exposure on Daphnia Magna Heart Rate

Second Place: Pranav Vijayababu - Save Our Seas

Third Place: Noelle Meenan - A Greener Roof

Honorable Mention: Brandon Reidy - Ball Pressure and Distance

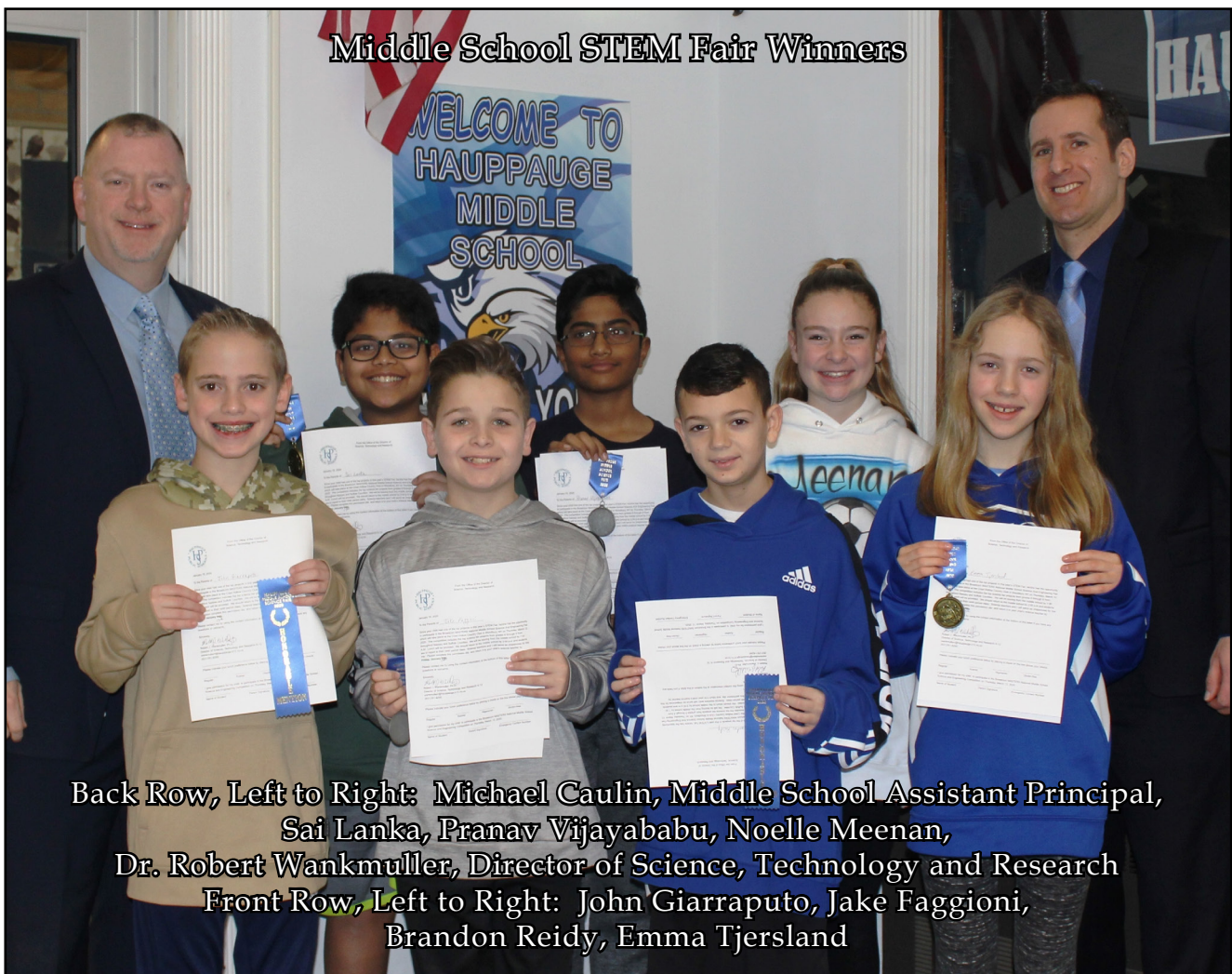
Honorable Mention: John Giarraputo - Oils Well that Ends Well

Seventh Grade

First Place: Sai Lanka - Blocking RFID Readers from Reading Your Personal Information

Second Place: Jake Faggioni - The Penny Project

Congratulations to all of these hard-working students!



"CLASS OF 2020" ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

They grow up so fast! Our elementary schools have released their photos of their Classes of 2020! These students are working hard through their last year of elementary school and will be proud Middle School students in the next school year! They are travelers on "The Road to Awesome!"



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