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HAUPPAUGE SCHOOLS WELCOME A NEW DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

Hauppauge Public Schools has welcomed a new Director of Facilities, Ernesto Rosini. He replaces the recently retired, Al Arnold. We are happy to share with you some insight on who Mr. Rosini is.

Prior to working here at Hauppauge Public Schools, Mr. Rosini was the Assistant Town Engineer for the Town of Riverhead, where as a professional engineer he managed and oversaw the town engineering group, responsible to design, build, manage and maintain all Municipal Buildings, Parks & Recreational Facilities. He held that position for 3 yrs. Prior to that he spent 9 years working for the Suffolk County Water Authority as a professional engineer, managing the distribution system engineering group, which designs and models drinking water distribution system capital construction projects for the 1.3 million residents served. Mr. Rosini also worked in the field as an engineer overseeing construction and maintenance projects.

Mr. Rosini has held titles as Assistant Town Engineer for the Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County Water Authority Distribution Engineering Manager, Assistant Mechanical Supervisor and Assistant Engineer. His tenure at the Suffolk County Water Authority gave him the experience to become a New York State Licensed Professional Engineer and Certified grade 1B NYS Water Treatment Operator.

Mr. Rosini was born in West Babylon and moved to Wading River at 3 yrs old where he still lives with his wife Michele, 3 year old daughter Giuliana and one year old son Giovanni. Mr. Rosini said, "I have always remained on Long Island having graduated from Shoreham-Wading River HS, and then going on to Stony Brook University and graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and then finally going to Dowling College to graduate with a Master's in Business Administration." Ernesto said he loves spending time with his wife and 2 kids; traveling, going out to dinner, cooking and woodworking.

When asked why he chose Hauppauge Schools, Ernesto said, "I chose Hauppauge because of the administration and staff's strong sense of community and school pride, this was evident from the first interview, I knew that Hauppauge was the right fit for me. The Hauppauge School District is also a good size, offering enough of a variety of facilities, to provide an interesting challenge. I'm privileged to lead the Facilities Group, and implement capital construction & maintenance projects to allow our facilities & staff to shine, and the Hauppauge students to thrive!"

Thank you to Ernesto for letting us get to know him a little. If you see him out and about in the District, be sure to say hello!



**Ernesto
Rosini
Director of
Facilities**

"TEACHER SPOTLIGHT"

Tracey DeRose
Grade 3, 4, 5 - Orchestra and Band
Pines Elementary School



Why did you want to become a teacher?

When I was a sophomore in high school, the Director of Music of my school district asked me if I wanted to help with the summer music program. That summer, he had me teach the beginner viola and percussion students. I had such a blast ! I knew it was what I wanted to do with my life.

Where did you go to college?

For undergrad, I went to the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam where I majored in music education and psychology. For my masters, I went to CW Post.

What did you like about college?

At Crane, I loved the fact that you can make any kind of music at anytime. Not only did I perform on my viola (symphony orchestra, quartet, jazz ensemble, opera orchestra, Latin ensemble), I also had the chance to learn other instruments including the viola da gamba in a renaissance ensemble and African percussion instruments in a world drumming ensemble. Because I was a psychology minor, I also had the opportunity to work at a crisis center for 3 years. I loved it!

What is the best part of your job?

Doing the happy dance. When a student or the group finally gets it, we all do a happy dance and celebrate the work.

How long have you been teaching?

This is my 16th year of teaching.

What makes a good day at school for you?

A day full of happy dances.

What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

This year I was a guest conductor for an all-county orchestra. I also won a photo contest where the first prize was a harp that I can wear and play.

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

I would love to sit in on the Middle School and High School band and orchestras. It would be fun to grab an instrument and play along with my former students.

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

If it's worth it, it's worth the work. If you want to succeed in something, whether it be playing an instrument or doing cartwheels, don't give up. The struggle never sleeps but the struggle will make you better.

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

I would take them to EPCOT and we would travel around the world. As we go to each country, we would grab some food from that nation and watch a performance.

Do you have a favorite thing about your classroom?

My sticker box. My students will work extra hard for a scratch and sniff sticker or a 'sticker challenge' sticker.

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

Most of them know this, but I volunteer at a shelter where I walk and train dogs. I also take dance classes and started running races and doing triathlons. My goal is to do the Tunnel to Towers Tunnel Run and Tower Climb.

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

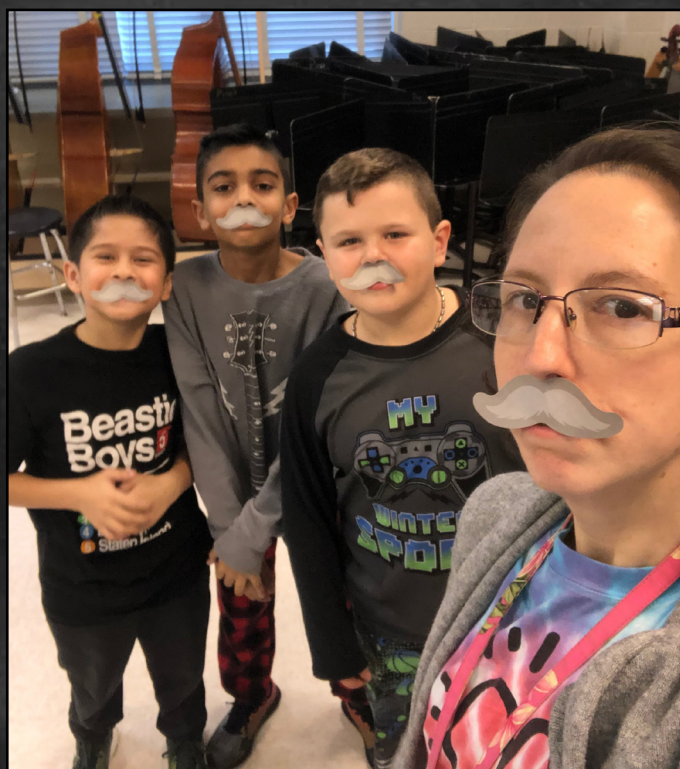
A nerd :)

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

Growing up, I loved the "Choose Your Own Adventure" series! I also just re-read "Charlotte's Web" and "The Secret Garden." Even as an adult, they are good books with a great lesson.

Why did you choose Hauppauge Schools?

Actually, Hauppauge chose me. I was first hired as a leave replacement. A few months into my leave replacement, a permanent music position became available. I was asked if I wanted to have the position and I said yes. I have been here ever since and love doing what I do. Living the dream.

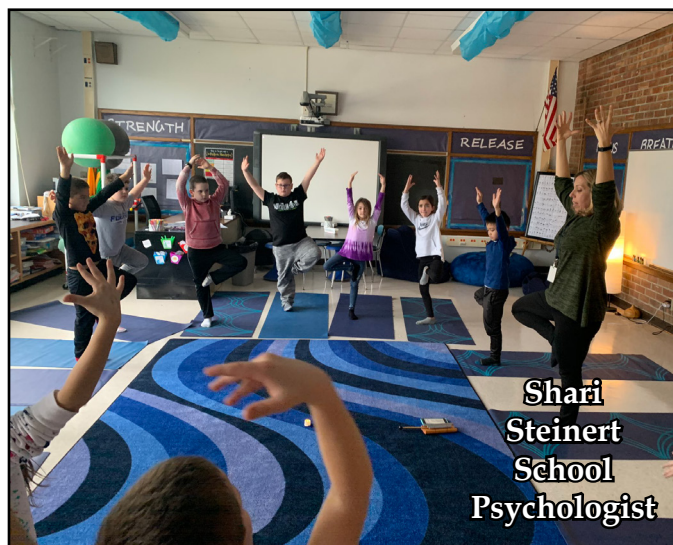
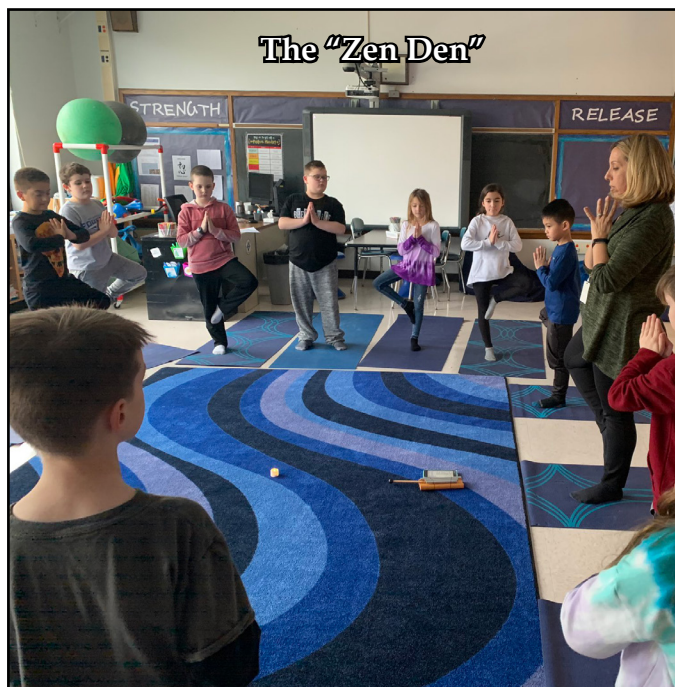


FOREST BROOK ELEMENTARY HAS A SPACE FOR YOGA AND MINDFULNESS - THE "ZEN DEN"

Forest Brook Elementary has a wonderful space in their school which they have dedicated to the practice of Yoga and Mindfulness for their students. It is called the "Zen Den." The "Zen Den" began this year with the joint efforts of Principal Kristen Reingold and School Psychologist, Shari Steinert.

Shari Steinert teaches Yoga and Mindfulness classes daily to whole classes, as well as after school programs that run for six week sessions. The after school program is broken up into K - 1st grade and 2nd - 5th grade. This is her fourth year running the after-school program which used to be housed in the gym. In addition to whole classes, she also works individually with students.

Ms. Steinert has been practicing Yoga and Mindfulness for many years and received her Yoga teacher certification in April of 2018. In October of 2019, she enrolled in an additional Yoga and Mindfulness



Shari
Steinert
School
Psychologist

teacher training program for children.

Forest Brook third grade teacher, Theresa Rivera recently visited the "Zen Den" with her class. Ms. Rivera said, "My students look forward to the Zen Den. On Monday, 1/6/20, we went as a whole class for the first time. My students were excited to demonstrate the positions and movements they already learned. Some were eager to lead the class in yoga exercises too. Everyone participated and enjoyed this relaxing time. I loved when Mrs. Steinert explained the left vs. right brain functions and how parts of your brain work together. We left our session with some brain break activities to try in the classroom. It was a perfect way to help transition back to the school routine after a long, holiday break!"

With regard to her vision for the "Zen Den," Ms. Steinert said, "My vision for the Zen Den is to teach students about yoga and mindfulness, to help support their social-emotional needs by providing strategies/tools to help them cope with anxiety, frustration/anger; support healthy self-esteem development; and help them develop awareness about their own mind-body connection in order to teach self-regulation, and practice focusing skills to reduce distractibility. My hope is that teachers (and support staff) will also utilize the space to provide students with a safe space to offer more systematic, building-wide support to our students."

Thank you to Ms. Steinert and Principal Kristen Reingold for creating this space for the students and to Ms. Theresa Rivera's class for the photos of their visit to the "Zen Den."



"NATURAL HELPERS" RECEIVE A SPECIAL VISIT

The High School "Natural Helpers" club received a visit this week from alumni of the program. The alumni are invited each year to return to the high school and speak with the current members about life after graduation. They share their stories, answer questions and provide information about the things they have found helpful since leaving Hauppauge.

The "Natural Helpers" are a club in which the students are helping others and making a difference. This club is a peer-helping program used across the United States and in several other countries. It primarily serves middle school/junior high school and high school students who want to strengthen their communication and helping skills to provide support to others and service to their schools and communities. Students in the program were selected through a survey process and invited to be members.

Shannon Griffin is a high school social worker and "Natural Helpers" club advisor.

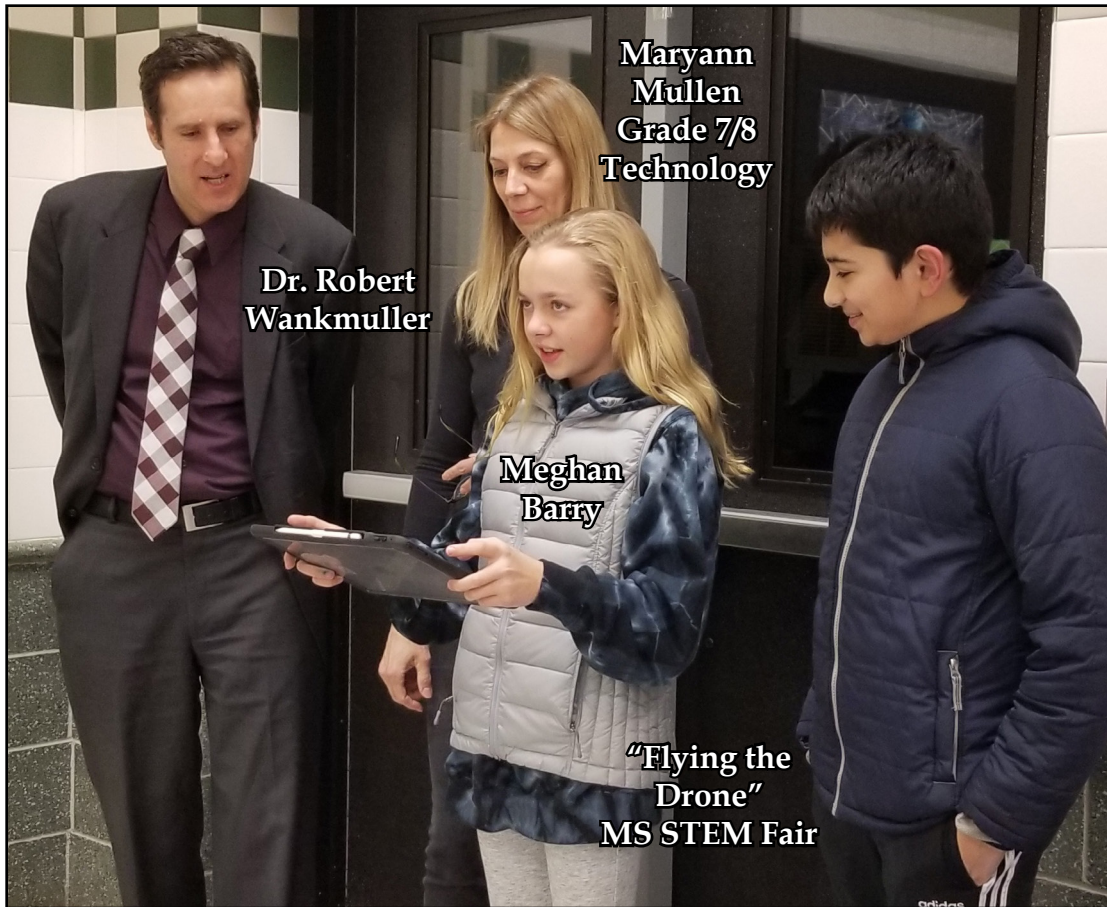
Thank you to our high school alumni for visiting and sharing with our students. We can see that these former students are still continuing to make a difference!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM FAIR FEATURES STUDENT WORKS, AND A DRONE

Our Middle School hosted a STEM Fair on Wednesday, January 8th. In addition to the displays of student work, the evening featured a demonstration by Maryann Mullen, Grade 7/8 Technology Teacher, of a Drone in flight. Pictured below is 7th grade student, Meghan Barry, using an iPad to fly the Drone and see the surroundings from the Drone's point of view.

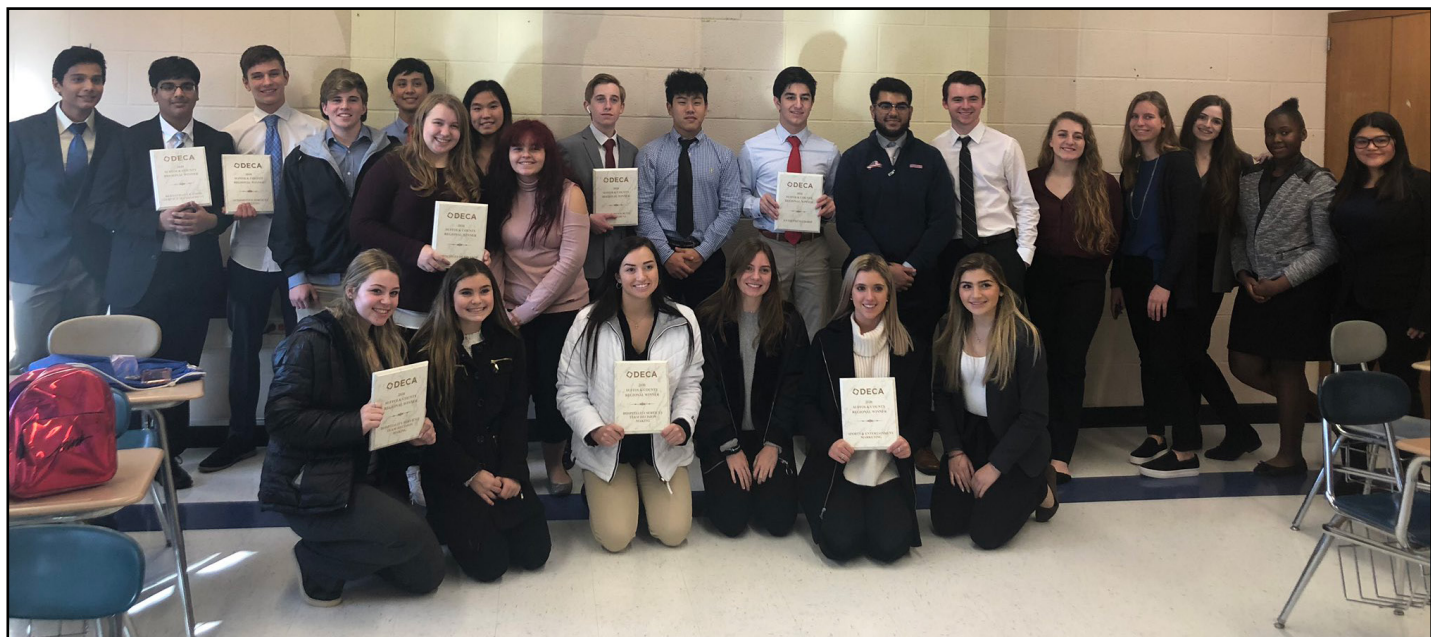
Congratulations to all of the students who participated to make this a terrific and informative event, and a special thank you to their teachers and Dr. Robert Wankmuller, Director of Science, Technology and Research.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECA REGIONAL WINNERS

Our DECA students recently competed in the DECA Regional Level Competition on January 8th at Suffolk County Community College. The following students placed in their respective categories. All students will have the opportunity to attend the State Career Conference in February. Congratulations!

Matvey Baranov - Automotive Services Marketing
William Downey - Human Resources Management
Alison Goia - Hospitality Services
Alexandra Grippo - Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Dharmik Namineni - Restaurant & Food Service Management
Sydney Robbins - Hospitality Services
Renaie Smith - Principles of Finance
Matteo Torquato - Entrepreneurship



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