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## **OUR HIGH SCHOOL HAS THREE COMMENDED STUDENTS IN THE 2020 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Christopher Cook, Hauppauge High School Principal, has announced that three of our high school students have been named "Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program." The students who have been named are Caroline Fortmeyer, Catherine Sheridan and Tyler Xu. Mr. Cook presented each of these students with their "Letter of Commendation."



**Pictured, left to right are: Heather Hiotis, Guidance Counselor;  
Dr. Dennis P. O'Hara, Superintendent of Schools; Caroline Fortmeyer;  
Catherine Sheridan; Marisa Wanatick, Guidance Counselor;  
Dr. Carolyn J. Probst, Assistant to the Superintendent for Educational Services  
and Student Outcomes; Christopher Cook, Principal.  
Not pictured is student, Tyler Xu.**

There are approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2020 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

With regard to attending college, Caroline said that at the moment, she is undecided as to where she will attend, but has been visiting colleges. Catherine has said that MIT is her number one choice, and she would like to major in biochemistry and then go on to medical school.

Congratulations to Caroline, Catherine, and Tyler on this outstanding academic achievement!



## YOU CAN'T SPELL "STARLETTE" WITHOUT "STAR" AND THIS YOUNG LADY IS DEFINITELY SHINING!

We have a shining star in our midst and her name is Starlette Menendez! Starlette is one of 22 athletes nationally who will be representing the United States at the 2019 Global Games in Brisbane, Australia from October 11th-19th. Starlette's sport is running and she will be running the 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters and 1500 meters races over a period of 4 days throughout the games. Starlette will be spending 10 days in Brisbane, Australia.

Starlette's mom, Deena, shared that her daughter is the first and only athlete with Down Syndrome to represent the USA. Over 50 countries and 1,000 athletes are a part of these games.

"Athletes Without Limits" announced the 22 athletes who will represent the United States at the games in Brisbane, which is the world's biggest elite sports event for athletes with intellectual impairments. The website stated, "The team is the largest the US has assembled for an INAS competition and consists of defending INAS World Champions, Paralympians, and debutants competing in Rowing, Swimming, Taekwondo and Track & Field. Together



the team and staff represent 14 different U.S. States." Starlette will represent New York in Track and Field events alongside three other U.S. athletes from California, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Starlette has been running since the age of 13. She is part of "Rolling Thunder" which is a special needs program. They are one of the first inclusive running clubs in the USA for all athletes and was founded in 1998 by Steve Cuomo. They are, "dedicated to providing challenged individuals with the opportunity to successfully take part in all levels of mainstream running, walking, or wheelchair racing."

Starlette typically spends two weekdays and weekends on her training, but with the games approaching, she is training every day. She spends time in the gym on triceps and biceps and runs on the track at Hauppauge, as well as doing "uphills" and "downhills." Starlette said, "I am working very hard on training." She is excited to see the uniform she will wear in Australia when she represents the United States. She will receive it when she arrives.

Starlette admires the friends she trains with at "Rolling Thunder" and she finds everyone there positive and motivating.

This will not be Starlette's first time flying, but it will definitely be her longest flight! Starlette said the flight to Australia will take 20 hours.

If you would like to read more about the 2019 Global Games in Brisbane, Australia, [click here](#). Also, if you would like to read about "Rolling Thunder," [click here](#).

We wish Starlette good luck in all of her races at the games and look forward to talking with her when she returns to follow up on this wonderful opportunity she is a part of.



## BRETTON WOODS STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

On Friday, September 20th, Bretton Woods students celebrated their participation in the 2019 Summer Reading program. Dr. Chris Michael, Director of English/Language Arts said, "Along with relaxing and recharging in preparation for the 2019-2020 school year, Bretton Woods students also spent time reading and creating projects as part of the 2019 Summer Reading Program. Students used both electronic platforms such as *LightSail*, *Sora* and/or *myON* to read books, while others picked up a good old paper book to explore new worlds, find adventures, figure out mysteries and learn more about the beautiful world around us. Fifty-one Bretton Woods students received Certificates of Accomplishment for their participation in the Program, along with a coupon for a free ice cream sundae at Applebees!

Congratulations to these "Super Readers!"





# ELEMENTARY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

The Hauppauge Fire Department visited some of our elementary students this past week during their annual visit. We thank them for taking the time to teach our students about fire safety to help keep them safe!

Here are some photos from their visit.





## HAUPPAUGE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN “THE COASTAL CLEANUP” AT ROBERT MOSES, FIELD 2

Mr. Jeffrey Yablon's high school biology students and members of the high school Interact Club participated in “The Coastal Cleanup” on Saturday, September 21st at Robert Moses, Field 2 Beach. This is the 21st consecutive year that Hauppauge students have participated. Special thanks to Mrs. Buel and Ms. Donnelly.



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT’S ARTWORK TO BE DISPLAYED AT NYS SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE

Dr. Laura Landor, Director of Fine and Performing Arts, recently congratulated high school student, Shivani Rao, for being selected to display her artwork “Mi Futuro Es Galactico” at the New York State School Board Conference to take place in Rochester, New York on October 24th - 25th.

Dr. Landor thanked high school art teacher, Beth LaVelle for nominating Shivani.

Congratulations to Shivani on being selected for this wonderful honor!



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