



Perspectives

The Principal's Newsletter

A Message from Dr. Woodberry

The Winter Recess is almost here! Our students are pushing themselves to finish the second quarter strong and will soon be preparing for midterms. In addition to focusing on academics, many of our students have been very active in extracurricular activities. You will read about some of these efforts in this issue along with a number of our students' recent honors and accomplishments.

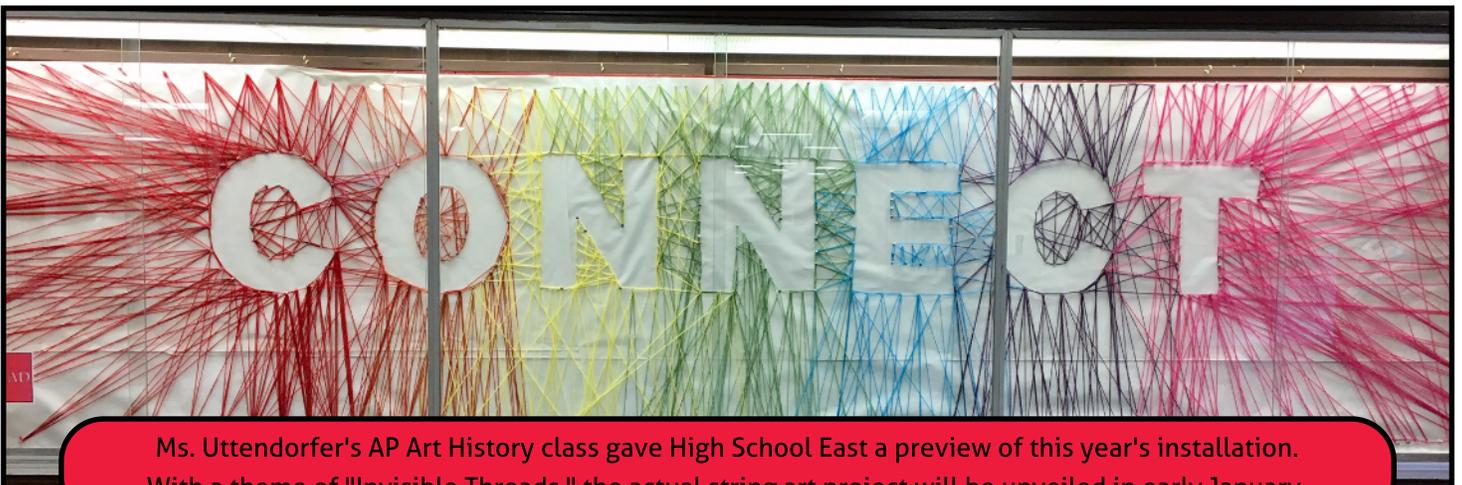
Our school spirit, talent, and service have been on display over the past few months. A number of our clubs, teams, and staff members participated in charitable endeavors during this holiday season, which included collecting and distributing toys, food, pajamas and more. There was an ugly sweater competition, a holiday show for James E. Allen Alternative School, and two outstanding Winter Concerts. There were also many more fun, exciting, and educational ventures which we are proud to share with you.

As always we thank the Board of Education, the Superintendent, Central Office staff, and of course, the parents of our community for making it possible for us to provide the best educational experience for our students.

Remember: Respect, Responsibility and Excellence!

J. A. Woodberry

Principal



Ms. Uttendorfer's AP Art History class gave High School East a preview of this year's installation. With a theme of "Invisible Threads," the actual string art project will be unveiled in early January.



Strengthening the High School–College Connection

High School East has entered into an exciting, new partnership with a professor from the Department of Technology and Society at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Professor Ted Teng expressed an interest in presenting current topics to high school students in the areas of the environment, engineering and human behavior, and collaborating with the students on ongoing projects based on the material throughout the school year. Professor Teng is no stranger to Half Hollow Hills; his three children graduated from High School East and he is the proud grandfather of a current East student. He also arranged for educators from China to visit High School East and share ideas about schools, teaching, and learning. Although he is involved with other high schools on Long Island, he wanted to share his knowledge and expertise with young people in his own community.



Professor Teng presented his ideas to the Directors of Math and Science and a few teachers of Advanced Placement classes. He said he would focus on topics like big data (cloud), global warming, self-driving cars, and translation phones, to name a few. Liking the idea, everyone in attendance decided to move forward with the project. It was determined that the professor would guest lecture in sections of AP Environmental Science and AP Computer Science Principles.

The presentations took place on two different days in November. In the AP Environmental Science class, Professor Teng delivered content regarding human population and global climate change. In the AP Computer Science Principles class, he focused on big data, simulation analysis, and Cloud computing. The presentations were very well-received. Professor Teng has a very engaging style that the students appeared to enjoy. It was a great opportunity for the students to experience teaching from a college professor. Professor Teng and the AP teachers, Mr. Mayo and Mr. Strack, plan to discuss ongoing projects with our students.

Matheletes Add More Wins



Congratulations to the Mathletes club on tying for 1st place in the Suffolk Division of the New York Math League. Paul Rhee led the team with a perfect 6 and was followed by teammates who earned a score of 5 out of 6: Jared Bank, Rinni Bhansali, Ray Chang, Ryan Li, Sari Strizik, Raymond Weisbrot, and Anton Wu.

19 top scorers contributed to excellent results in the 1st Suffolk

Math League meet of the year, placing our A team 1st in the league with a 3-point lead. Our B team followed closely behind, coming in 3rd in the division and 5th in the league and our C team placed 5th in the division and 8th in the league. Perfect scorers: Jared Bank, Rinni Bhansali, Ray Chang, Cory Laban, Paul Levy, Raymond Weisbrot. - submitted by Ms. Suarez





Sharing Holiday Opportunities



A number of clubs joined together to support the Gerald Ryan Outreach Center in Wyandanch and start off the holiday season right. HSE has a long and growing relationship with this group. For the past five years, the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) with the help of National Honor Society (NHS)--and in some years the football team--have partnered to provide resources such as jeans, clothes, and cereal.

This local community organization provides food for over 400 families at Thanksgiving

time and needed contributions of corn bread, stuffing, gravy, and cake mix to complete their Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. "Food insecurity" is a major issue for over 100,000 people on Long Island. Food insecurity refers to a family lacking consistent access to affordable, healthy food. Amnesty, National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, One World, Interact Club, and various social studies classes contributed more than 1700 items of food. In addition, some East students visited the Outreach Center to assemble baskets and sort items in the food pantry. This is a great way to teach students the importance of helping locally and not just during the holidays, always. NAHS is always looking for students to help run monthly food drives at local supermarkets.

In December, NAHS, Amnesty, Interact, One World, and the African American Student Organization collaborated to encourage students and staff to bring in toys for the Gerald Ryan Outreach Center and pajamas for the SCO Family of Services. Pajamas for teenagers are a need that people frequently overlook. During the winter months, homes are often cold, and teenagers find themselves in need of warm clothes. This year, the clubs were able to deliver over 200 toys and over 70 pairs of winter pajamas to the organizations that reach out to those in need.



- submitted by Ms. Cullen, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Zarkadas



All the News That's Fit to Air



Six years ago when I started a radio show of my own that revolved solely around the topic of golf on Long Island, I could never have predicted that it would impact my career as a social studies teacher. The more I worked to develop the content of the radio show and understand the technical aspects of the trade, the more I began to think what value it could have in my classroom. As with many things, there turned out to be so much more to generating a thirty

minute radio broadcast than I had ever imagined. This was the first aspect that made me realize it could be a valuable learning opportunity for students. The intent was to provide students with a means by which they could generate their own news show in which they would have a role in not only dictating the information and content but in all aspects of its production as well. This was the idea that began to circulate in my head. As I gained experience with the aspects of radio broadcasting, I began to try to think of ways to bring the same opportunity to students at High School East.

Fast forward six years and High School East has a broadcasting class. Broadcasting 101, which I am lucky enough to teach, has already provided students a setting in which they assume ownership over both individual and group audio/video projects. Students are building a unique skill-set that sets them apart from their peers. They are producing, executing, and distributing content that deals directly with their school, the district, and the community in which they live. HSE TV is an entirely student-centered means of disseminating information that, most importantly, serves the student body and at the same time, speaks to the district and community as a whole. Students are embracing the entire process of creating content that is important to them and with that, all of the technical aspects that go into creating the broadcast itself.

"The broadcasting program at High School East has proved to be a valuable experience. This introduction into the world of media has fostered a sense of appreciation and joy in the production, as well as performance. I would highly encourage anyone with an interest in television, or even an open mind to join Broadcasting 101!"
- Aidan Mallon, Broadcasting 101 student



Broadcasting 101 began as a result of a shared drive and common vision to teach and ultimately, empower students to be in control of their own news program dealing with stories and information that directly impacts them. Bringing the full vision of Broadcasting 101 to life took a lot of time and effort from a lot of different people. Dr. Woodberry has been instrumental in this endeavor. He has always been a proponent of innovation, and what the students are doing today is the result of our cooperation and drive to prepare our students for what lies ahead.



While there is much more to come from HSE TV, we would never have even gotten to this point without the support and encouragement of Ms. Fallon, Mr. O'Farrell, and the Board of Education.

District technician, Roy De Jesus has spent countless hours with me creating and refining our whole process. When we were trying to find our broadcast identity, it was Mr. Rendon who suggested we do the morning announcements. Director of Social Studies Lorraine Lupinskie has been generous with support and has offered keen advice as well as resources valuable to the development of the program, and Mrs. Trotter has been extremely patient and kind working with me on our budget. Finally, the maintenance and custodial staffs have built our studio space from what was literally a closet space and a quiet room. They have gone above and beyond in preparing the studio and getting us "broadcast ready." If you ever want to know what the "Energy Bus" looks like in a physical form, come to the broadcast studio to see what can be achieved with positive energy, motivated students, wonderful co-workers, and fearless leaders. - submitted by Mr. Scorgia



Thunderbird TV Now Available!

Checkout our Broadcasting channel on YouTube for daily announcements, live event broadcasts, and special segments at HHH HSETV!

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/HSETV> and subscribe today!



Hearing Their Stories

The Senior Experience class had an opportunity to travel to Suffolk Community College and attend "Witnesses of Liberation," a part of the college's Center On The Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding. Here, we heard from World War II veteran Marvin Bochner and Holocaust survivor Werner Reich. The two spoke of their vastly different experiences: one living in multiple concentration camps and the other liberating a camp. Their stories were powerful and moving as they talked about the horrors of World War II and the camps that were scattered throughout Europe. It was incredibly moving to hear his account of the terrible torture by the Nazis and the terrifying sights of finding a camp full of malnourished prisoners. The two speakers left a real impact on everyone and gave a new perspective for others to see.

The class also had the opportunity to learn of the experiences of Ron Rorie, a Vietnam War veteran, who was a combat photographer and took hundreds of photos showing the life of U.S. soldiers as they were fighting the war. Through his photo shows and narration, he provided a first-hand view of the struggles of American soldiers during the war. On the ground and from helicopters, he managed to capture very powerful photos of battles. Rorie talked about how, for an 18-year old who had just been drafted, it was very difficult to travel through the dense jungle and muddy swamps. He described the paranoia that the soldiers felt during their interactions with the natives. Rorie's presentation was very moving and showed how real the Vietnam War was and the effect it had on the Americans who experienced it.

Overall, the two trips were very beneficial for the students who rarely have opportunities to hear stories like these. Trips like this one are great for the class because the first hand sources we get to see and hear are so much more powerful than any textbook. Meeting Rorie, Reich, and Bochner were unique and special opportunities for all. - submitted by Anthony Hidalgo (12)





A Taste of our Heritage

Together, Senior Experience students and the staff of High School East had a Taste of Immigration. On November 23rd, the Senior Experience class was tasked with bringing in and preparing dishes of their ethnic backgrounds or religions. Students were required to obtain all the necessary ingredients and serving necessities (we also shared ingredient lists because we would not want any allergic reactions). We were given 7th period to finish whatever preparations were needed before the feast: heating up our foods, adding spices, etc. Once ready, we all stood side by side and spoke to the diners about our dishes and their significances. Following that, we all sat around a couple of tables and each shared what we were thankful for. Though we each shared a very different reasons, we all agreed that we were thankful for something indeed.

Initially the prospect of having to prepare a dish for an entire class and possibly even faculty was taxing; I had to dig for mine. We saw foods and dishes from many ethnic backgrounds such as: chicken biryani, marquise au chocolat, curry chicken, empanadas, flan, lasagna, Scottish shortbread, and other well-prepared foods. The Food Fest was a great way for us to connect with our roots and get a taste (pun intended) of the meals our ancestors enjoyed. In addition to preparing the food, we also prepared a one page paper on our dish, which gave us further insight into our ethnic backgrounds and the origins of our dishes.



The whole food fest was just a single part of a massive unit on immigration. It was used as a way to expand on the lessons of the novel, *The Tortilla Curtain*. The book captures attitudes towards immigrants. Today, some take for granted the little things in life that our ancestors fought to make available to us generations later. Some people do not take into consideration the difficulties our families faced. The Food Fest made us recognize and think deeply about what we had in front of us and to grow an appreciation for it.

Food Fest was a great experience for the class, as we continued our venture into immigration. The



project gave us the opportunity to gain more appreciation for our families and our cultures. We all greatly enjoyed sharing our cultures with everyone that joined us for the lovely meal. The Food Fest was a valuable learning experience to all of us. As we continue to learn about immigration, we hope to further our understanding of our own backgrounds and roots.

-submitted by Naasir Abdul-Latif (12)



Outdoor Education Students Get Their Pulses Pounding

On November 14th, students from the Outdoor Education Class went on a field trip to Adventure Park in Wheatley Heights. Adventure Park is the largest aerial forest-climbing park in New York. Students were able to challenge themselves by selecting the course that suited them best. Students climbed on ten different aerial trails that were color coded for difficulty level, with each course featuring a series of platforms in the trees connected by cable, wood, rope, and zip lines to form bridges. Each aerial trail presented a different challenge of how to get to the next platform, and students had to gather up their courage, strength, and endurance to get through an entire course. We were very proud of how many of the students stepped out of their comfort zone and put themselves into nerve wracking situations, while still managing to finish the course and work through their fears. After three hours of climbing, the students were rewarded with well-earned pizza and drinks for lunch, and a quick nap on the bus ride back to school to rest their tired bodies. - submitted by Mr. Gibbons and Ms. Horan



Walking Through History

Ms. Kane's American History students visited the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City in early November. For many, it was their first visit to the site of the terror attacks of September 2001. Students were eager to learn more about the events leading up to that fateful day. Visiting the outdoor reflecting pools was a somber experience, as students walked around and saw the names engraved of those lost. Some learned more about the "survivor tree," the pear tree which was nursed back to health after sustaining major damage and whose seedlings now populate the plaza outside the museum. Inside the museum, students discovered personal artifacts of those who perished and learned more about the many victims from their families' stories. They learned about the structure of the buildings, and were in awe of how the museum was built out of the original footprints of the towers. After making this trip, students were better able to understand an event which occurred when they were merely infants! - submitted by Ms. Kane





Nightmare on Main Street

Ms. Uttendorfer started preparing early for 'The Nightmare on Main Street' student exhibition at the Huntington Arts Council. She assigned her Photography III students a 'Whimsical Portraits' digital shoot over the summer as part of their summer homework. If you know Mrs. Uttendorfer, you know she's a huge Tim Burton fan, loves Halloween, and works hard each year creating a haunted house for Safe Halloween. She was eager to get some of her students involved. This exhibition is very different than all of the other art shows throughout the year because it is inspired by a holiday and the fall season, plus artists attend the opening reception in costume!



The exhibition allowed photography students to explore darker themes in art and subjects such as a torn out heart, zombies, witches, and others. Students from AP Photography and Photo 3 were chosen to be featured: Rachel Berkowitz, Julia Bretschneider, Christian D'Sa, Casey Goldstein, Amanda Stark, and Sarah Young were featured in the show. They were among 35 total student artists featured from schools across Long Island. The show was up for two weeks and is an annual event.



- submitted by Ms. Uttendorfer

Students and Firefighters Rescue the Holidays

This December, the Hills East National Honor Society worked to spread holiday cheer by contributing to the Sunshine Toy Drive. Hosted annually by the Dix Hills Fire Department, the drive was created by one of Half Hollow Hills' own students, Victoria Plumitallo, when she was in the fourth grade. Each year, the Sunshine Toy Drive provides thousands of holiday gifts to the less fortunate children in the area. At the event, hosted this year on December 16th and 17th, the toys were sorted according to type, gender, and age. Hundreds of families were then able to choose toys for their children and have them wrapped by the many volunteers, some of them from the NHS, at no cost. At their monthly meeting, each member of the NHS brought a toy to donate to the drive. The NHS was able to collect multiple large bags of toys, ranging from barbie dolls to drones to board games to toy cars. The efforts of Sunshine Toy Drive truly helped to make a difference in the lives of local families in need during this holiday season.



- submitted by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Tonneatti



Ceramics and Sculpture Students Visit

This year the Ceramics and Sculpture students were involved in two unique art experiences: a trip to the LongHouse Reserve and a chance to work with a Raku artist, Gina Mars.



The LongHouse is a 16 acre reserve and sculpture garden located in East Hampton, NY, that is home to works of art from famous artists such as Buckminster Fuller, Yoko Ono, Dale Chihuly and William de Kooning and many more! What is truly unique about The Longhouse, is that all of the art is large scale and outdoors. There is also a focus on nature and agriculture. "LongHouse brings together art and nature, aesthetics and spirit, with a strong conviction that the arts are central to living wholly and creatively." Some works have been there for years and are a part of their permanent collection and other pieces come

and go, ensuring there is always something new to see when visitors return. "The mission of the LongHouse Reserve is to exemplify living with art in all forms. Founded by Jack Lenor Larsen, its collections, gardens, sculpture and programs reflect world cultures and inspire a creative life." The students who attended this trip have the chance to create a sculpture inspired by their visit for possible submission into their Student Annual Art Exhibition.

Our next exciting art opportunity was with Raku artist Gina Mars. Raku pottery has been around since the 16th century in Japan and practiced by American potters since the 1950s. This process yields unique results that would not be possible in a traditional kiln (a kiln is where clay artworks are fired once dry). After placing pottery into a Raku kiln, students waited for the moment when the intense heat began to melt the special Raku glazes. When the piece is removed the glaze begins to melt, then it's into a pail of combustibles (newspaper) for a round of flame and smoke. When taken out of the pail many surprises await! The temperature change from the kiln, to the pail of combustibles causes the vessel to crackle in various ways, and influences the design and shade of the glaze. You may also see metallic and iridescent effects, caused by the oxygen being pulled from the clay and glaze. - submitted by Ms. Diodato





Hills East Takes Care of Business at Competition

The HSE business students competed in the 14th Annual Emerging Leaders Business Competition on November 30, 2016 at Saint Joseph's College in Patchogue, NY. The business competition was sponsored by the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce and the Young Professionals Chamber of Commerce. The competition challenged the students to create viable business solutions for existing businesses and gave the students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge through presentations in several business categories. The students competed either as a team of two or individually in the business events. There were 315 students from 18 Long Island school districts who competed at this event. Twenty-five HSE students participated in the event. Ten HSE students placed in their categories. Eight students earned first place awards and two students earned second place awards.

Jake Gandolfo and Adam Wilck

First Place

Entrepreneurship

Rhea Randhawa and Natasha Bajaj

First Place

Retail Marketing

Casey Goldstein

First Place

Job Interview (11th /12th)

Christopher Dunn

First Place

Hospitality Services

Lauren Cherkin and Arden Josinsky

First Place

Sports Marketing

Mark Gandolfo and Ben Ferbin

Second Place

Sports Marketing

We are very proud of all our HSE students who took on the challenge to compete in this event.

-submitted by Ms. Southard and Ms. Cappiello





Winter Sports Are Heating Up

The winter season is in full swing for the T-Birds and there are high expectations for each team. Girls Fencing looks to defend their Long Island Championship this season and are off to a hot start with a record of 3-1. The Boys Fencing team has an identical record with wins over Huntington, Brentwood and Commack. Boys Basketball came into the season ranked #1 in Suffolk County and #4 on Long Island. They are currently 3-2 with one of their losses coming at the hands of #1 ranked Long Island Lutheran 64-60. Girls basketball is returning a loaded roster and is a favorite in the league. They are currently 4-2. Boys Swimming will once again make waves in the interscholastic swim world this year and are sporting an undefeated record thus far. Newsday Athlete of the Week, Alexander Park, has qualified for the New York State Championship in 100m Butterfly. Wrestling took second place at the Sprig Gardner Tournament at Mepham High School last weekend. Philip Spadafora and Tate Kershner both took first place in their weight classes and the following wrestlers also placed: Saajid Pinate (2nd), Khalil Bannister (2nd), Yashiya Minor (2nd), Jonathan Spadafora (3rd), Michael Sanfilippo (3rd), James Spadafora (4th). Christian Sam looks to be a top contender in the 600m this winter for the Boys Indoor Track team, and he will be part of the 4x400 relay that looks to continue its success of last Spring. In the 55m and 300m, Jared Trefney looks to be a top contender in the county as well. For the Girls Indoor Track team, Jenna Bottone is currently ranked as one of the top runners in the county in the 1000m and looks to break her own school record this winter. Katrina Barry recently broke the school record in the 1500m walk. Finish strong, Thunderbirds! - submitted by Mr. Kindelmann





Fall Signing Day

High School East is proud of its student-athletes who signed their letters of intent to compete at the collegiate level.



Reed Bresky
Manhattan College
Lacrosse

Kevin Cavataio
CUNY Queens College
Baseball

Hannah Cohen
George Washington Univ.
Gymnastics

Nina DiNardo
SUNY Cortland
Soccer

Max Gerber
US Naval Academy
Gymnastics

Ashley Gomeran
Northwestern Univ.
Fencing

Kelly Lennon
SUNY Geneseo
Swimming

Sophia Lettieri
CUNY Queens College
Fencing

Sean Lulley
Univ. of Pennsylvania
Lacrosse

Michael Palazzolo
Stony Brook Univ.
Baseball

Alexander Park
Brown Univ.
Swimming

Julia Pascarella
Haverford College
Lacrosse

Nicholas Volpe
Manhattan College
Lacrosse



Congratulations to Guadalupe Pedraza and Ethan Koval on their selection as October's Students of the Month.



Recent Awards & Honors

2016 High School East PTA Reflections Winners
Photography: Julia Bretschneider, Maryanne Mahoney
Visual Arts: Emma Boudin, Sophia Lettieri
Literature: Sophia Lettieri, Jamie Miller



Marlee Krasin, Jade Long, and Leo Wild have been chosen as Long Island Young Scholars of Mathematics. They will participate in the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury.



Mark Muratore placed 5th at the Suffolk County HS Golf Tournament. He also received All-League, All-Conference, and All-County honors. Mark will be representing HSE and Suffolk County at the NYS HS Golf Championship this spring.



Hills East is proud to announce that Ashley Gomeran, Vaidehi Patel, Paul Rhee, Matthew Sacher, Rachel Shapiro, and Danielle Stauber will represent our building in the National Association for Music Educators' All-Eastern Ensembles.

Congratulations to Sanne Maring and Vincent Muraco on their selection as Students of the Month for November.

