



BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

Published by the Board of Education

June 2006

Brentwood's Flourishing Art Program

From the youngest children in kindergarten to seniors preparing to graduate, the art program at Brentwood School District provides numerous opportunities to develop students' artistic talent and celebrate creative expression, as well as preparing some for careers in the field. This year to date, eleven graduating seniors will be attending college to pursue careers in fine arts. The Brentwood art curriculum addresses all the New York State Learning Standards, and our students exhibit their work in district-based art shows, as well as those sponsored by cultural organizations throughout the area. The highlights of these exhibits are listed below.

Over the course of its five-day run, several hundred visitors came to see the work displayed in the **45th Annual Elementary Art Fair** (top center photo). The tremendously successful fair, which took place in March, featured the work of young artists in kindergarten through fifth grade. Media on display included painting, drawing, printing, sculpting and three-dimensional works. Of particular note are the recent installations of two fiberglass statues. Students from Laurel Park and Loretta Park elementary schools designed these statues, one a 5-foot bear and the other a 4-foot penguin, using inspiration from works of master artists. The statues will be on permanent display in their buildings.

Following on the heels of the elementary fair was the **45th Annual Secondary Art Fair** in early May, held in the Anthony F. Felicio Administration Building. The works on display demonstrate the wide variety of curriculum offerings on the secondary level, including studio art, cartooning, animation, calligraphy, drawing, illustration, fashion illustration, photography, painting, two- and three-dimensional design, computer graphics, web design, advertising, media communication and broadcast television.

"The arts must be at the heart of every child's learning experience if... they are to have a chance to dream and to create, to have beliefs, to carry a sense of cultural identity."

— James D. Wolfensohn,
former chairman of The Kennedy Center



Nick Martell, Bryan Henry and Osmin Cruz, art students in Barbara Thomson's cartooning class at the Freshman Center, were selected to exhibit their work in the **Creative Expressions, Young Artists Showcase Exhibition** sponsored by the Ward Melville Heritage Organization in March. These three student artists entered mixed media drawings of cartoon scenes and characters.

Sonderling Center tenth grader Cristalina DeNicola has been accepted into the **Heckscher-Usdan Student Art Institute** based upon her portfolio presentation and nomination from the Brentwood School District. Cristalina was one of 15 students selected from among Long Island youth art programs.

Three Brentwood High School students were selected for the prestigious exhibition **Long Island's Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher**, a highly competitive juried art show of works by students from 31 districts held in April. Congratulations to seniors Wanda Rivera and Peter Lee, and to junior Maria Pontillo. Additionally, Maria received the Renzo S. Bianchi Scholarship Award.

Brentwood's art students were again invited to participate in a Women's History Month event sponsored by the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee in March (bottom left photo). More than 75 students displayed works depicting the theme **Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams**. Of particular note were four murals created by North Middle School students and their teacher, Barbara Helbock, in conjunction with the Heckscher Museum's **Image and Imagination Program**. The murals will be on permanent display at the school.

2006-'07 Budget Approved!

Thank you to all of our community residents who came out to vote on May 16. The Board of Education and administration of the Brentwood School District are grateful for your continued support of our schools, and most importantly, our students!

This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District Community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.

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A Farewell Message From the Superintendent...

Dear Parents, Students, Residents,
Staff and Administrators,

This will be my last message to you, since I will be retiring on July 1. That date will come with a great deal of mixed emotions. Without question, it will be difficult to leave a place that has been home for 39 years.

I have had the very good fortune of spending my entire adult life working in Brentwood. I began teaching at North Elementary School in 1967, and have served as president of the Brentwood Teachers Association, principal of Pine Park Elementary School, Coordinator of Labor Relations, Director of Elementary Education, Associate Superintendent, and, for the past 12 years, Superintendent of Schools. In each assignment, I have had the opportunity to grow professionally and to work with some of the finest, most capable individuals anyone could find in education. It is that which gives me confidence that Brentwood will continue to excel.

During my tenure as a central office administrator, I have been fortunate to be a part of a number of positive initiatives. Implementing a full-day kindergarten program, beginning an elementary counseling program, and instituting district-wide peer mediation are among the accomplishments of which I am most proud. We were also successful in passing two major bond projects that allowed the district to expand and to provide significant technology upgrades for our students. I was also delighted to have had the first full state comptroller's audit in Suffolk County find absolutely no malfeasance or inappropriate expenditures in our district. The comptroller's report confirmed the honesty and integrity of our employees.

How does one sum up a 39-year career? One does not! I suppose we look back and reflect on the good times and bad. In my case, the good far outweighs the bad. I will leave Brentwood loving the time I have spent here, and wishing the staff and community nothing but the best – you deserve it!

Les Black, Superintendent of Schools

A Message from Your Board of Education

Dear Brentwood Family,

As this academic school year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the most recent accomplishments of our Board of Education, accomplishments that will surely have a positive impact on our children and community.

First, I would like to thank the Brentwood Community for supporting our schools and approving the 2006-2007 school year budget. We appreciate the community support and pledge our commitment to do **THE BEST POSSIBLE JOB TO ENSURE A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF BRENTWOOD.**

Second, let me say that I am very proud of the members of the Board of Education who have stood with me to enact a change in leadership for our district. This change alone will help us to address and improve the academic performance of our students and advance the talents and abilities of Brentwood's youth. I challenge everyone to look critically at the academic needs of our children and the fact that our district has been identified by the State Education Department as "in need of improvement." We do not have the time or the luxury to wait for things to change. We need to be proactive and initiate positive change. Time is the most valuable and precious commodity, and the one thing in life we never get back. Our children deserve an innovative school leader and an excellent education. Everyone can rest assured that our new superintendent will be a leader with a new vision for the advancement of Brentwood's children. We are seeking an educator, a reformer, and a visionary. The new educational leader of the district will complement our hard-working and dedicated staff by bringing new ideas and concepts, thinking outside the box and being innovative in searching for answers and solutions to the challenges facing our children and the school district.

The Board of Education recently appointed Mr. Michael Cohen as Interim Superintendent effective July 1, 2006. Mr. Cohen will serve as an Interim Superintendent while the Board undertakes a nationwide search for a permanent superintendent. We are very excited about Mr. Cohen's appointment and look forward to working with him and moving the district in the right direction. Mr. Cohen has a background in Mathematics and has taught at the secondary and collegiate levels. He spent 23 years in the Bay Shore School district, first as a Math teacher and eventually as district coordinator for curriculum and instruction. Mr. Cohen was instrumental in dramatically increasing state test scores in Bay Shore. Subsequent to Bay Shore, Mr. Cohen became the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Amityville School District. In this role, he was in charge of curriculum and instruction for the entire school district. Upon arriving at Amityville, Mr. Cohen quickly implemented a new approach to the delivery of instruction with particular emphasis on the special education students, who did not demonstrate minimum competency on the state tests...resulting in the district's identification as "in need of improvement." With his innovative approach to mathematics instruction, the Amityville school district achieved unprecedented success in New York State, and over a two-year period, the students more than doubled their test scores, and the district was designated as a "school in good standing" by the New York State Education Department.

Here in Brentwood, our four middle schools and the high school have also been identified as "in need of improvement" by the state. We are confident that under Mr. Cohen's leadership, our students will reach minimum competency, and, more importantly, mastery, on the state assessments. Our children deserve nothing less. I encourage our dedicated and hard-working teachers, administrators, staff, and community members to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Cohen and to give him our full support to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

It is time for Brentwood to be known for academics, and to bring our educational programs to a new level of achievement.

New leadership will bring new energy. Please contact us and join us in our upcoming efforts to take the Brentwood School District to yet another level of excellence.

Sincerely,

Tomas Del Rio, Board President

Helping Our Students Prepare for Testing

The Bilingual/ESL Department presented an informational meeting to parents of students in the Bilingual and ESL programs on March 10 to discuss the NYSESLAT (New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test), which all of these students must take this month.

Approximately 400 parents and students attended the meeting at South Middle School, where they viewed samples of the test for K-1, 2-4, 5-6 and 7-8 grade levels. Additionally, they worked on some of the examples together with their children. The evening was designed to help parents better prepare their children for success on this test, and in all school subjects.

Afterwards, some staff members of Southwest Elementary School gave a performance of the Puerto Rican folktale *Juan Bobo* to parents and students who attended the workshop. Our thanks to all the teachers and staff, as well as the parents and students, who attended the workshop and made it a success.

Principal's 1800 Club

A special group of students at Brentwood High School had its inaugural celebration on April 26, 2006. This is the Principal's 1800 Club. Membership is reserved for those students who have achieved a combined score in a single testing session of over 1800 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the SAT's.

A plaque with the names of all members of the Principal's 1800 Club is on display in the high school principal's office. Each of the high school centers, Ross and Sonderling, have plaques displaying the respective students names. The ceremonies included the presentation of individual plaques to the students commemorating their membership, as well as a celebratory breakfast.



Town of Islip Recognizes Our Students' Achievement

Six students from Northeast Elementary School received *Outstanding Student Achievement Awards* from the Town of Islip. These students were chosen based upon their individual accomplishments. Congratulations to Carmeline Jean-Francois, Language Arts award; Jacqueline Guzman, Leadership award; Giselle Felicano, Language Arts award; Jasmin Felicano, Leadership award; Brianna Zimmerman, Leadership award; and Janet Benitez, Mathematics award.



BNL Essay Contest Winner

Congratulations to Brentwood High School student Alex Yang, who was named a winner of the Brookhaven National Laboratory's Science and Society Essay Contest. Alex was chosen for an award from among the 157



(L-R) Science research teacher Rebecca Grella, Alex Yang and Brentwood High School Principal Thomas P. O'Brien

entries. The Science and Society Essay Contest aims to challenge students to consider the purposes and social implications of scientific research. Essays are expected to contain substantive, well-reasoned arguments that indicate a depth of understanding of scientific and societal issues.

Brentwood High School Receives Grants for Science Research Program

More Learning Opportunities for Students, Thanks to the Hard Work of One of Our Outstanding Teachers

Our enthusiastic staff members are always searching for innovative ways to present school lessons, and often finding alternative forms of funding to make it possible. Recently, Brentwood High School science research teacher Rebecca Grella was awarded several grants.

A grant submitted by Ms. Grella resulted in a PPL Environment Award for \$1,500 for a project called *Student Stewards Greening the Brentwood Community*, which will include a cleanup of the 38-acre Oak Brush Plains Preserve adjacent to the high school campus. During the cleanup of this watershed area, student stewards will learn about invasive and native species. Through this community activity, students will help to educate the public on the importance of keeping watershed areas clean. Most of the grant will be used to provide our students with the materials needed to clean up and restore the preserve, as well as make new bluebird boxes.

Ms. Grella was also the recipient of a \$1,500 *March of Dimes Teacher Award*. Through a proposed project, *Seeing is Believing*, students will investigate potential environmental causes of birth defects, develop experiments using plants to observe genotype and phenotype changes, and utilize up-to-date PCR (polymerase chain reaction) technology to observe changes in the genetic structure of plants exposed to harmful environmental contaminants. Students will work with *Brassica Rapa* plants as a model population to demonstrate these principals.

Additionally, Ms. Grella has been awarded a \$500 grant from CSTL Symbol Technology.

Teacher of the Month

Lisa Jaime, a Brentwood High School science teacher, was named Teacher of the Month by LIGASE (Long Island Group Advancing Science Education). Dr. David Bynum,



(L-R) Dr. David Bynum, Lisa Jaime and Brentwood High School Principal Thomas O'Brien

professor of biochemistry and cell biology, presented the award to Ms. Jaime. LIGASE is a partnership between Stony Brook University and select Long Island school districts, and allows local high school teachers to learn the newest research techniques through a liaison with researchers at Stony Brook. Ms. Jaime is in her fourth year as a science teacher in the Brentwood Union Free School District.

Noteworthy . . .

'100 Days of School' Project Assists Local Food Pantry

In recognition of the 100th day of school, seven classes at Pine Park Elementary School collected 100 items to donate to Pronto, a local food pantry. Participating classes were



Mrs. Dell'Isola's, Mrs. Gordon's, Mrs. Stavros's, Mrs. Falk's, Mrs. Pisani's, Mrs. Gonzalez's and Ms. Tirico's. Brenda Morgan from Pronto came by the school to pick up the collected items.

Recognizing Those Who Improve Our Schools

Each month, the Brentwood High School Improvement Team recognizes individual achievements toward improving our schools. In February, the SIT recognized parents Narima Sudama and Fran Rizzuto, teacher Rebecca Grella and English teacher Katie Macrae. Presenting the awards were SIT co-chair Kevin DeVita, SIT co-chair Vincent Autera, and Brentwood High School Principal Thomas O'Brien.

Original Program Looks Beyond Individual Differences

In March, the Freshman Center presented *All Access*, a bullying and violence and awareness program. These important issues were addressed through an original modern-day musical, *No More Victims*. The goal of *All Access* is to communicate to high school and college-age students the benefits of looking beyond differences in social or economic status, race, culture, appearance or ability.

Trying a Career on for Size

Through a Future Teachers of America program, Brentwood High School students had the opportunity to explore a career in teaching. In addition to observing elementary school students at work in the classroom, the high school participants read to children at Hemlock Park, Loretta Park and Laurel Park. Future Teachers of America recently adopted a program offered by Hofstra, *Teachers of Tomorrow*, which provides students with scholarship opportunities, workshops, information on the fundamentals of education and more.



Campaign to Combat Hunger at Oak Park

Fifth graders at Oak Park Elementary School joined a school initiative to raise funds for Island Harvest – a food rescue service that delivers food to 450 non-profit member agencies on Long Island. The students listened to Michael Hack, a member of the Board of Directors for Island Harvest, who talked about the widespread hunger problem and *Coin Harvest 2006*, this year's fundraising campaign. He also brought different food items to discuss making healthy choices. Students started collecting spare change on April 17.

A Celebration Brings Out the Community

Oak Park Elementary School opened its doors to the community for a night of celebration designed to increase parent involvement. Pepe Santana filled the room with his music from South America, and local restaurants brought in food representing different nations. Several community healthcare service organizations

participated, including Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Suffolk County Perinatal Coalition, Catholic Charities Food Stamp Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Latino Health Initiative of Suffolk County, National Cancer Institute Cancer Information Service of NY, Brentwood Bay Shore Breast Cancer Coalition, Child Care Council of Suffolk County, Asthma Coalition of Long Island and HIPUSA Inc. Also on hand were advocacy and community support organizations, including S.C.O.P.E., Brentwood Library, Shepherd's Gate, Pronto, Adelante, Bay Shore Y.M.C.A. and Latinos in Action.

Connecting Home and School

Loretta Park Elementary School invited parents to a math night, where they participated in a workshop and learned about what their children should know for the state mathematics assessment. The parents were also provided with a sample test and practice packet.

Math Night Adds Up to Fun

Frank J. Cannon Southeast Elementary School held its first annual Math Fun Night that brought parents and students together for a night of math review. More than 200 parents and students from the school played math games that included domino math, golf probability, multiplication war, bingo, tangrams and fraction activities. Information regarding the state math assessments, as well as follow-up activities, was available to take home.



Honoring Teacher Through Fundraising Effort

Laurel Park and Northport High School collaborated in a fundraiser to support breast cancer research in honor of a Laurel Park teacher who has been diagnosed and treated for the disease. Teachers were invited to donate \$1 and wear pink for the day. Faculty at both schools also wrote their names on pink slips of paper that were linked together to create a giant chain, which will be hung in the commons of Northport High School. All proceeds were sent to the Carol Baldwin Foundation.



Coping with Asthma

A unique program at Laurel Park Elementary School, *Open Airways*, teaches students about asthma and provides coping strategies for dealing with the disease.



The program, which meets every week for six weeks, was coordinated by school nurse, Susan Vargas, and is conducted by a student nurse, Donna Wagner.

Loretta Park Holds Bilingual/ESL Library Night

The Brentwood Public Library invited parents of ESL and bilingual students of Loretta Park Elementary School for a tour of the facility and information about the programs and resources they offer. Students were involved in a craft and storytime during the tour. After the tour, parents received library cards and were encouraged to check out books.

Book Drive Fills Shelves at Hemlock Park Elementary School

Nesconset High School senior Rachel Niegelberg organized a children's book drive to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. Rachel collected over 2,000 books and donated them to Hemlock Park Elementary School to be divided among the students for their personal library collections.

JANY Volunteer Gives Lesson on Family

A volunteer from Junior Achievement of New York (JANY) visited Laurel Park Elementary School in March and April to teach social studies lessons to first graders focusing on family. Junior Achievement is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business and economics to improve the quality of their lives.

Now You See It...

Students at Laurel Park saw the secrets of magic revealed through scientific explanations during an interactive magic show. The show used mirrors, magnets, air, optical illusions, and mind boggling to demonstrate the principals of light, sight, reflection, magnetism, memory, air pressure and logic.



Native-American History Program

Storytelling artist Carolyn Calandro presented an engaging Native-American program to students at Oak Park Elementary School. Through traditional tales, the students learned fascinating facts about Native American history.

St. Paddy's Celebration

Sgt. John Owen of the Nassau County Police Department played the bagpipes for fifth graders at Southeast Elementary School as part of a St. Patrick's Day celebration. After talking to students about his experiences as a bagpiper, he walked through the school hallways playing his bagpipes for everyone to hear and enjoy.

Preparing for State Tests

In preparation for the state science assessments in May, fourth graders at Frank J. Cannon Southeast Elementary School learned about the Earth's rotation and the change of seasons. After the interactive lessons, the students were quizzed... and everyone passed.

Storigami

Origami USA's National Master Rachel Katz engaged fifth grade students at Oak Park Elementary School as she told a story enhanced by origami – an activity Ms. Katz calls *Storigami*. Illustrating the different parts of her tale, Ms. Katz folded colored papers in the fashion of the traditional Japanese craft. "It is fun to use your imagination as you see the shapes emerge and put them into a story. Then when you want to make the model again, the story will help to remind you of what to do next. When the story is very helpful in remembering the fold, I call it a *Teaching Tale*," says Ms. Katz.

Pig-Out on Reading

Students at East Kindergarten Center, Oak Park Elementary School and Hemlock Park Elementary School met Farmer Minor and his potbelly pig, Daisy. Farmer Minor told stories about Daisy's formative years. At the end of the program, following the "Daisy pledge," all of the students were allowed to pet Daisy and receive a pig stamp on their hands. Willing principals, librarians, and teachers were permitted to give Daisy a kiss.



Magic Reward for Reading

Students at Twin Pines Elementary School were challenged to read 2,500 books in five weeks – and having met the challenge, were rewarded with an amazing magic show in which their principal, Robert McCarthy, was "sawed" in half. The educational magic show teaches the value of reading and learning skills, and the importance of imagination.



Broadcast Marathon Fundraiser

WXBA radio held a 24-hour broadcast marathon to raise money for the American Diabetes Association. Students in WXBA prepared an exciting lineup for this special marathon, which included interviews with local celebrities. Several WXBA staff members have been directly or indirectly affected by this serious health threat.

Taking on Rachel's Challenge

Brentwood High School recently participated in a motivating character education program that has received national attention. *Rachel's Challenge*, named for Rachel Joy Scott, the first student killed in the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999, is a program that "inspires, instructs and enables" students to bring positive change to their school atmosphere.

Springtime Rewards for Reading

The annual spring Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) assembly was held at Laurel Park Elementary School in April. First through third graders were required to read at home every night for 15 minutes over a course of two weeks and keep a reading calendar. The classes with the highest participation received baskets filled with books for their classroom libraries, as well as bookmarks, gift certificates and a pizza party. The first grade winner was Mrs. Cardenas's class; second grade winners were Mrs. Gonzalez's, Mrs. Mace's and Mrs. Lavelle's classes; third grade winners were Ms. Rabin's and Mrs. Krumholz's classes.



From the Sports Desk...



Brentwood Student Chosen for US Under-18 Men's Soccer Team

Brentwood High School junior Wilbur Bonilla has been selected for the United States Under-18 Men's Soccer Team from among athletes across the nation. Wilbur represented the U.S. in an international competition in March. Congratulations to Wilbur on his outstanding accomplishment.

Brentwood High School Principal Thomas O'Brien congratulates Wilbur Bonilla

Register Now for Summer Camps

- n Girls' basketball camp: July 31 to August 4
 - n Boys' basketball camp: August 7 to 11
 - n Girls' volleyball camp: August 21 to August 25
- Call the Athletic Department at 434-2512 for more information.

Sports Notes...

- n Varsity tennis coach Clem Stancik enters his 44th season of coaching Brentwood tennis.
- n The varsity girls' lacrosse program, starting its third year, is preparing to take the field.
- n The boys' varsity basketball, boys' varsity golf and the West Middle School girls' volleyball each won the Section XI Sportsmanship Award for their respective leagues.
- n Congratulations to the coaches and the athletes from these teams, who showed Suffolk County why Brentwood athletics is tops.
- n Priscilla St. Laurent represented Brentwood winter girls' track at the New York State meet and took first place as part of the Section XI intersectional medley team. Congratulations to Priscilla on being a state champ.
- n Sophomore Ricardo Gomez was crowned the 103-pound Suffolk County champion in wrestling and took third place in the New York State meet.
- n Southwest Elementary fifth grader Derrick Middleton took first place at the 20th



Freshman Kurt Cunningham securing the last out



For important dates in Brentwood sports plus access to team websites, visit the Athletic Department's website at www.bufsd.org/Athletics/Frameset.html.

New Law Aimed at Improving Student Health and Nutrition

In June 2004, President Bush signed the *Child Nutrition and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Reauthorization Act* into law, requiring every school district participating in federal school meals programs (as the vast majority do) to enact a wellness policy by July 1, 2006.

In response to the new mandate, the Brentwood School District has established a Wellness Committee that includes parents, students, school nurses, teachers, school food service personnel, administrators, Board of Education members, PTA and community representatives to develop Brentwood's wellness policy.

The purpose of the policy is to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity while improving student learning. It must include nutrition guidelines for foods available in schools, nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness. According to the mandate, a plan for measuring the implementation of the policy must also be included. A final draft of the policy will be presented to the Board of Education for adoption in June.

In keeping with our commitment to child nutrition and physical fitness, the Brentwood School District embraces this initiative. Schools working together with parents can play a vital role in improving the health and wellness of the children in the Brentwood School District. If you have any questions regarding this new policy, please call Scott Hartman, Director of Programs and Policy, at 434-2498 or email Mr. Hartman at shartman@bufsd.org.

More information on Brentwood's wellness policy, along with health, nutrition and fitness tips, will appear in upcoming issues of the *Brentwood Bulletin* and the high school newspaper, *Pow Wow*.

Civil Rights Leader Addresses Brentwood Students



On November 14, 1960, a shy, six-year-old girl became the unwitting symbol of the nation's struggle for civil rights and integration, as armed federal marshals escorted her past throngs of angry protesters into William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ruby Bridges, the first African-American to enter the former

segregation stronghold as a child over 45 years ago, recently visited students at Loretta Park, Hemlock Park, Twin Pines and East Middle School. Today, she devotes her life to spreading a message of tolerance and diversity. Students and staff gave their rapt attention as Ms. Bridges shared the details of her experiences and discussed the important lessons she's learned.

Music Notes

In February...

Hailing from Lima, *Jazz Peru* performed at Brentwood High School and East Middle School. Afterward, jazz band students performed with the professional jazz group in a workshop setting.

In March...

A total of 69 district music students in grades five through 10 participated in the Suffolk County Music Educators All-County Festivals. Students performed in All-County bands, orchestras and choirs with peers from many other Suffolk County school districts. "We are so proud of the accomplishments of our talented student musicians. This was a special honor that the children and their families will remember and cherish for many years to come," commented District Music Coordinator Joel Ratner.

Simply Strings, the Brentwood School District's annual string festival, took place on March 7 and 8 at the Freshman Center. The festival featured nine secondary string orchestras and a performance by the professional Classical Strings Quartet.

The Brentwood District Music Department presented a wonderful production of *The Music Man*. The blockbuster Broadway musical featured Brentwood students in grades three through twelve.



Earth Day Cleanup is Artful Endeavor

The area around East Middle School and East Elementary School was the focus of over 100 volunteers who turned out for an Earth Day cleanup, organized by art teacher Nick Groudas. Faculty members, sports teams, representatives of Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and students helped with the venture, culminating a month of garbage- and trash-related art projects.



The well-planned cleanup assigned volunteers to targeted areas based on a grid map of connecting streets, parking lots and sports fields that enter and exit East Middle School and East Elementary School. Among the "trash art" projects are a sixth grade collage made from old magazines, a seventh grade sculpture made from recyclables, and an anti-litter campaign in which eighth graders are illustrating containers. Plans are in the works for a giant trash sculpture made from items collected during the Earth Day cleanup.



In April...

The 38th Annual Suffolk County Music Educators' (SCMEA) Recorder Festival was held at Brentwood High School on Saturday, April 1. This marked the eighth consecutive year our district has hosted the event. More than 200 recorder players from 11 school districts participated; approximately half were Brentwood elementary school students.

On Tuesday, April 4, third grade students at Laurel Park performed in a concert under the direction of music teacher Mrs. Lynn, who decorated the auditorium with patriotic colored stars and jewels. The students presented three performances throughout the day, featuring lively singing, dancing and recorder music. Ms. McElroy, Mrs. Bisagni and Mrs. Lynn donated costumes.

Also on April 4, the Freshman Center and Brentwood High School jazz ensembles performed in concert to celebrate National Jazz Appreciation Month.

The Richie Iacona Jazz Band came to Brentwood High School on Friday, April 7. The professional ensemble conducted workshops in the morning, and performed two lively concerts in the afternoon.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM 2006

The Brentwood Union Free School District announces the availability of a Summer Food Service Program, at **no cost**, for all children 18 years and younger who reside in the Brentwood School District. Meals will be served without regard to race, color, gender, age, disability or national origin.

Meals are available at the following sites at the times indicated and must be consumed on the premises commencing on July 5, 2006.

LORETTA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TWIN PINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Breakfast 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Lunch 11:45 AM – 12:15 PM

SONDERLING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Breakfast 6:30 AM – 7:15 AM
Lunch 10:45 AM – 11:15 AM
Commencing on July 5, 2006

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Breakfast 8 AM – 8:30 AM
Lunch 12:00 Noon – 12:30 PM
Commencing on June 26, 2006

Breakfast will consist of chilled fruit juice or a fruit, a (1/2 pint) container of low fat milk, cold cereal w/bread and butter or a bagel or roll with butter or cheese in place of the cereal.

Lunch will consist of chilled fruit juice, a (1/2 pint) container of low fat milk (chocolate or white), a piece of fruit and a sandwich. (Cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, cold sandwiches will be served).

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

Program benefits and services available to all children without regard to race, color, gender or disability, age or national origin. If you believe you have been discriminated against, write immediately to the Office of Civil Rights, Director, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C.

Only those students enrolled in summer school or recreational and enrichment activities. Students are only required to take any three different items for a complete lunch. All items are offered.

CHILD FIND PROCEDURES

The Brentwood Union Free School District is attempting to locate any students with a disability as defined in section 4401(1) of Education Law:

- n who have not attained the age of 21 prior to September 1st;
- n who are entitled to attend public schools pursuant to section 3202 of the Education Law;
- n who reside in the district boundaries, or attend a school geographically located within the Brentwood School District boundaries; and
- n who may require special education services.

A student may have a physical, mental, emotional, medical or developmental disability, which would require special education or services. If you have any knowledge of a student who may meet these criteria, please contact Mr. Robert Bronzo, Director of Special Services at (631) 434-2401.

For students who have been parentally placed in a nonpublic private elementary or secondary school, written requests shall be filed with the board of education of the school district in which the parent or person in parental relation of the pupil resides on or before the first day of June preceding the school year for which the request is made; provided that, in the case of education for students with disabilities, where a student is first identified as a student with a disability after the first day of June preceding the school year for which the request is made and prior to the first day of April of such current school year or when a student with a disability establishes residence in the school district after June first of the preceding year and prior to April first of the current school year, such request shall be submitted within thirty days after such student is first identified or establishes residence in the district, as applicable.

Parents for Megan's Law Helps Keep Communities Safe

The tragic 1994 death of Megan Nicole Kanka was the inspiration for *Megan's Law*, federal legislation requiring states to notify local communities of the presence of sex offenders who may pose a risk to public safety. New Jersey was the first state to mandate active community notification; powerful advocacy and lobbying resulted in the federal version of the law, enacted in 1996.

Now, *Parents For Megan's Law*, a not-for-profit national community and victim's rights organization, is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, counseling, policy and legislative support services. For more information, visit the Parents For Megan's Law website at www.parentsformeganslaw.com.