

Brentwood Guidance Newsletter

Wayne A. Abenes
District Guidance Coordinator

Brentwood's Brightest Stars

Please join us in congratulating our "Top 10 Seniors" in the Class of 2011 on their college acceptances:

ROSS

Alexander Hayden - Boston College
Kendra Cornejo - Brown University
Kerry Brathwaite - Stony Brook University
William Genova - Yale University
Anna Olekanma - Duke University
Jacqueline Galdamez - Adelphi University
Brittany Faison - University of North Carolina - Greenboro
Andrew Franco - Columbia College
Jessica Lopez - Suffolk Community College
Jaime Moran - Five Towns College

SONDERLING

Norman Ming-Cao - M.I.T.
Ijeamaka Anyene - Yale University
Ulisses Perdomo - SUNY Stony Brook
Sharon Varghese - Johns Hopkins
Elissa Olivera - CUNY Honors Queens College
Robert Bonilla - SUNY Albany
Arosa Arshad - Long Island University
Alyssa Earl - Suffolk Community College
Bryan Sookoo - University of Hartford
Jennifer Wong - University of Buffalo



Thank you to our Guidance Counselors whose expertise in crafting powerful application packages helped our Brentwood students gain acceptance to these fine universities.

Bilingual Students Breaking Barriers

Bilingual counselors working directly with Bilingual students take great pride in the successes their students have enjoyed throughout the year.

College Acceptances on the Rise - The number of Bilingual seniors who are college bound and on track to earn an Advanced Regents diploma has been increasing each year.

Leadership - We would like to congratulate Rocio Ventura. She received the 2011 County Executive Youth Achievement Award. Each year this honor is awarded by Steve Levy to a Suffolk County student who has overcome adversity and/or met challenges in an extraordinary way. Rocio was also chosen to represent Brentwood at the Angel Del Toro Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute held in Albany during the week of March 29, 2011.

Honors/Award Winners - Our Bilingual students won multiple awards at the Annual Hofstra University Poetry Contest. Our 1st place winner was Rocio Ventura, 2nd place winners were Jennyfer Lucana and Ana Jimenez, and our 3rd place winner was Ena Mejia.

Recent Award Winners

2011 Town of Islip Student Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following students who won awards in their respective categories: **Christian Crawford** – Performing Arts • **Kevin Gonzalez** – Leadership • **Carlos Tamayo** – Scholarship and Athletics • **Norman Cao** – Mathematics • **Samantha Garvey** – Science • **Sharon Varghese** – Science

Gates Millennium Scholar

Ijeamaka Anyene was named a Gates Millennium Scholar! The renewable scholarship money will help pay for her expenses at Yale University.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Willie Dawkins received an Achievement Award in the amount of \$2500. He was featured in Newsday on Sunday April 24, 2011.

Mid-Island Scholarship

The following students received this award for academic excellence and community service. **Terrae Lattimore** - \$5,000
• **Rasean Gilmore** - \$1,500 • **Jasmine Cole** - \$500

LINKS, Inc. Scholarships

The LINKS scholarship recognizes students who show academic promise based on their high school service records.
Ijeamaka Anyene - \$1000 • **Robert Bonilla** - \$1000
• **Terrae Lattimore** - \$1000 • **Jasmine Cole** - \$500

Counselors Guide Parents through College Admissions

The High School guidance staff presented juniors and their parents with an informative Power Point presentation that serves as a valuable tool during this time of transition. Each factor that influences the college admission decision was explained and discussed in detail: strength of transcript, SAT/ACT's, in-school and out of school activities, recommendations and personal essays.

The goal of the department is to help all students become "educated consumers" in the college selection process. Keeping in mind the overall impact the decision has on family structure and lifestyle, the guidance department closed the evening workshop with a guest speaker from HESC (Higher Education Services Corp) who discussed the financial aid process.

Middle School News

STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD

March 2011

Every marking period at *West Middle*, guidance counselors and the teachers collaborate to allow the school to decide who should be recognized for their positive behavior. For the month of March, 350 students were recognized, not for their honor roll grades, but for being Good Samaritans to other students. West Middle School not only focuses on academic success, but on positive character traits as well.



BULLYING ASSEMBLY

March 3, 2011

On March 3, 2011 *South Middle School* held their first annual bullying assembly. Officer Antoinette Semetsis and Officer Bonnie Raber from Suffolk County Police Department provided an educational Power Point presentation on the effects of bullying. The students learned how bullying makes people feel uncomfortable in their environment and the consequences that may come from bullying others. It is important that our students are well aware that bullying has a very negative impact on the victims and is taken very seriously in our school. At the end of the assembly each student signed a pledge against bullying. They promised to "not take part in any form of bullying and to stand up to those who bully others."

We are very proud of our students at South Middle School who are helping to make our school a Bully Free Zone.

CAREER FAIR

March 25, 2011

Friday, March 25, 2011 was a special day for *East Middle School's* 8th graders as they attended an educational Career Fair. Over 30 professionals from many different career backgrounds participated in enlightening our students about the future possibilities that are available for them to one day achieve.

The students at East Middle School were given the opportunity to learn about future careers that fit their interests along with others intended to pique their curiosity. Presenters, faculty, and students engaged in stimulating and educational learning experiences with one another, making this Career Fair extremely successful and enjoyable.

The enthusiasm received from all of the attendees encouraged East Middle School to continue holding Career Fairs with the intent to educate our students and provide them with every possible avenue to success.



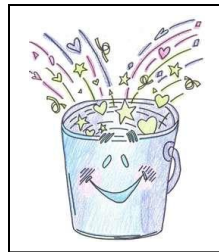
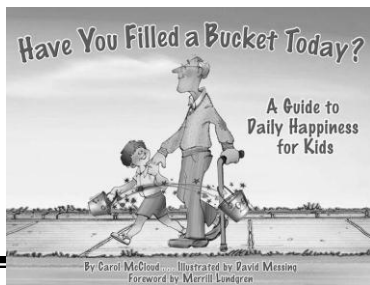
ANTI-BULLYING GROUP

April 7, 2011

On April 7, 2011 the Anti-Bully Group from the High School, supervised by Wayne Abenes and Jen Torres, visited *North Middle School*. The presentation was provoking, so much so, you could hear a pin drop in the auditorium filled with 8th graders and again with 7th graders. Through music, personal stories, a Power Point presentation and school generated video clip, the message of "Stop Bullying" was heard loudly and clearly. The Anti-Bully Group hopes that they will touch others and inspire them to make better choices in their lives.

**Elementary News****Character Building**

At Hemlock Park, the topic of empathy was presented to the fifth grade classes. It is so important that our students understand how other people may be feeling. At Hemlock, students are constantly encouraged to be "bucket fillers." This program reinforced the idea that we are always influencing those around us in a positive or negative way. A simple smile to a person having a bad day can make all the difference. We know that with the appropriate information and encouragement all our Hemlock Park students have the ability to be a tremendous positive force!

**Water Safety**

The Brentwood Community has been directly impacted by water related accidents. To help inform the elementary students about the importance of water safety, the school counselor, Ms. Price, provides a lesson on swimming safety to the classes at Hemlock Park and Southeast Elementary. One of the main points emphasized during this lesson is that children are never to go near the water without an adult "water watcher" who is responsible for supervising the student at all times. Students are encouraged to ask their parents to get them involved in organized swimming lessons.

To promote the importance of swimming lessons for young children, Mr. Pettersen, the executive director of the YMCA in Bay Shore, was kind enough to donate 8 weeks of free swimming lessons for 5 students who entered and won a Swimming Safety Poster and Writing Contest.

In addition, the High School students have a five week aquatic unit in our swimming pool. Students learn the basics of swimming and more advanced students play water polo.

On Saturdays the pool is open to the community and swimming lessons are available.

Internet Safety Police Smart Presentation

Twin Pines was very excited to be visited by Officer Antoinette Semetsis in March. Our fourth graders were presented with information about keeping themselves safe while surfing the web. Officer Semetsis showed the students a video of a student chatting on the internet. The fourth graders were shocked to find out that the other person she was chatting with was not who they thought she was chatting with. Lesson learned by all, you never know who is on the other side of that computer screen.

Officer Semetsis also met with our fifth graders and spoke to them about bullying and how to address bullying situations.

Safety First

As the weather gets warmer, our kids are overjoyed about playing outside and riding their bikes. We tend to worry more about our kids being safe outside. This is why Officer Semetsis was invited to Loretta Park to speak to our first and second graders about being safe wherever they are. Officer Semetsis spoke to our students about emergencies and calling 911. She shared story cards with the students about stranger danger and also gave them ideas about what to do in dangerous situations. Loretta Park students were excited to see her cool bike helmet when she talked to them about bike safety and the importance of wearing a helmet when "they put wheels under their feet". Officer Semetsis made it a fun learning experience for all.

Steer Clear of Bullies

At Oak Park Elementary, Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS), was scheduled to present at the fourth grade level on the important topic of bullying. "Steer Clear of Bullies" is comprised of writing activities, role plays, classroom discussions, and homework assignments. This multimedia program focuses on empathy, social skills building, bully prevention, and helpful and hurtful bystanders.

The Dream Team

Northeast Elementary held a "Yard Sale" on May 17th during which time the staff donated household items, clothing and toys. The proceeds of the sale are going toward our Dream Team. The Dream Team was created to work with families in crisis in an effort to support our students towards their dream.

Our school counselor at Northeast is currently working with a family that suffered the sudden loss of their father. This family has been selected to receive the proceeds from the yard sale which will enable The Dream Team to help these student's dreams come true. When asked, "What is something you wish for?" the 2nd grader replied her wish was to have her Dad back with them and for her mother to have a garden.

The Northeast staff responded by contributing further with homemade gift baskets for the family as well as provided them with "extras" to help make their summer fun. Staff also donated their time to plant a garden and redecorate this deserving family's apartment.

We look forward to The Dream Team's continued efforts to help families heal and believe in the power of their dreams.

Make Good Choices

Laurel Park Elementary has implemented a program that encourages children in grades 1-5 to "Make Good Choices". The program reinforces positive behavior by providing tickets for good decisions demonstrated by the children. Prizes are awarded for 5-15 tickets. The program has increased self-esteem, self awareness and has assisted children in considering the feelings of others. Overall, it has been a wonderful way to teach and foster good decision making skills.

Steps to Respect

This year at North Elementary, our counselor implemented a program for 4th and 5th grade students called "Steps to Respect." It is a prevention program for bullying. It includes activities, classroom lessons and role playing. It has served as a great guide for preparing our 5th grade students to enter middle school with an understanding of how their choices affect them. The program has been implemented in classrooms and small counseling groups.

In addition, North Elementary continues the bucket filling program and will have the second "Night to Shine" ceremony on June 8th for those students who were chosen by their classroom and special area teachers to demonstrate their acts of kindness to their families. It is a great motivator for students to be acknowledged for their kindness and caring. The program also serves to help build our student's self-esteem.

Newsletter editors:

Angela Behr- BHS- Guidance Counselor

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Brentwood Union Free School District
Brentwood, NY 11717

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We're on the Web!

<http://schoolcenter.brentwood.k12.ny.us/education/dept/dept.php?sectionid=213bufsd.org>