



# Jericho School News

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December 2012

## *Jericho Reaches Out to Neighboring Schools after Superstorm Sandy*

Superstorm Sandy tore through the East Coast at the end of October causing great damage to Long Island and other communities in the tri-state area.

A majority of Jericho residents were without power for two weeks and suffered damage to their homes from fallen trees. Our schools were closed for eight days thanks to Sandy and the snowstorm that blanketed the area the next week.

When our students and staff returned to school on November 7, we had one of our highest staff and student attendance days. Many of our staff members lost their cars, and some their homes.

"I congratulate our staff for nearly perfect attendance in the weeks that followed the storm in spite of their own personal challenges," said Superintendent Hank Grishman. "It is obvious that our students are their highest priority."

Once Jericho began to fall back into routine, we quickly realized that many communities were hit worse than

Jericho. That is when fundraising efforts began for the school community and the surrounding areas.

The school community raised approximately \$13,000 to support the seventeen staff members whose homes were most severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy.

The south shore school districts in Nassau County were devastated by the storm and the flooding. In an effort to help our neighbors, and to encourage our school district to continue to work together, each of our schools has partnered with a specific school to assist them with both their immediate and long-term needs. In most cases, these schools lost almost everything, and the roads to recovery will be both, long and challenging ones.

Jericho High School is partnering with East Rockaway High School. East Rockaway suffered great devastation. The High School students are currently being housed in an empty school in the

Baldwin School District and probably won't be able to return to their building until late February. In the district's music department, all instruments, books and equipment were under water and ruined. Our High School is collecting instruments to donate to East Rockaway. The High School also has a Talent Show planned to raise funds to purchase instruments.

Our Middle School has partnered with Oceanside Middle School. This district also suffered great devastation. The school's most immediate need is calculators, specifically scientific and graphing calculators. The Middle School is currently accepting donations if families have extra calculators, and the students and staff have starting discussing fundraising efforts.

George A. Jackson and Robert Seaman Elementary Schools have been paired

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*Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Victor Manuel and Transportation Director Lori-Ann Savino just finished sorting through \$5,000 worth of items that were donated by The New York Association for Pupil Transportation before driving the items to donate to schools located on the south shore of Long Island.*

Important Document - Please Translate

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重要文件請翻譯

Documento Importante - Traduce Por Favor

## *Jericho Kindergarten Registration Begins in January*

Calling all Jericho School District children born on or before December 1, 2008. Registration for kindergarten will be held at the Jericho Elementary Schools **Tuesday, January 8 through Friday, January 11, 2013** at:

**Cantiague: 9 -10:30 am Jackson: 9 -10:30 am Seaman: 9:30-11 am**

To register, parents must provide the following:

1. Original Birth Certificate
2. Proof of Residency such as a tax bill or deed (original lease if renting)
3. Immunization Record signed by a physician

New York State law requires the following minimum immunizations for all students attending school:

Diphtheria & Pertussis (DTaP)	3 doses
Polio	3 doses OPV or IPV
Measles	2 doses on or after the first birthday
Mumps	1 dose on or after the first birthday
Rubella	1 dose on or after the first birthday
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Varicella	1 dose on or after the first birthday

Valid medical or religious exemptions are acceptable if written proof is presented at the time of school registration. This includes a medically-documented history of disease. Appropriate forms are available in the school nurse's office.

Questions regarding medical requirements can be answered by contacting the school nurse or building principal at Cantiague (203-3650), at Jackson (203-3640) or at Seaman (203-3630), or the Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services Dr. John Castronova at 203-3600 ext. 3254.

## *Students Earn Honors in the National Merit Scholarship Program*

*Jericho High School students Shun Aizawa, Christina Chen, Michael Cheng, Laurie Chow, Nebiyou Getahun, Stephen Huh, Asha Job, Sonia Joshi, Bernice Kwan, Samuel Lam, Emily Ma, Colleen McCormack, Olivia Novick, Sophia Rhee, Michael Shen, Alexandra Shi, Morgan Smiley, Noah White, Raymond Wu and Amelia Xu were named Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. These students had the opportunity to compete for approximately 8,400 scholarships, worth \$36 million, that will be offered next spring. More than 1.5 million juniors in over 22,000 high schools across the U.S. entered the 2013 National Merit Program by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Semifinalists, who represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, are made up of the high scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.*

*\* \* \**

*Twenty-nine Jericho High School seniors were named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program: Minghao Deng, Jasper Du, Hanna Feibus, Alan Jiang, Matthew Lesser, Xiao Liao, Tahsin Loqman, Ethan Mogavero, Seonghee Park, Pritak Patel, Julie Pliskin, Richard Shi, Eric Smiley, Seul-e Son, Cory Waldman, Tommy Wang, Rosa Won, Kristin Wong, Salina Wu, James Xie, Jun Yoo, Jennifer Yu, Dawei Zhao, Kevin Zhao, Peter Zhou, Adam Birbach, Emily Bih, Alexandra Aseel and Brandon Carter. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 National Merit Program by taking the 2011 PSAT/NMSQT. "We are very proud of all of our seniors who have been recognized as Semifinalists and Commended students," said Superintendent of Schools Hank Grishman. "All of these young men and women serve as exceptional role models for students in our district."*



## *Middle School Sets World Record for Standing Up to Bullying*

During the last 12 years, Jericho Middle School had demonstrated a significant commitment to bully prevention and school climate change through the implementation of the BRAVE (Bully Reduction Anti-Violence Education) program. This program, developed by the school Mental Health Alliance of Long Jewish Hospital, and piloted at Jericho, is based on the research of Dan Olweus, with a focus on bystander responsibility.

During the past year, the administration and staff of Jericho Middle School has deepened their commitment by moving forward to enhance the BRAVE program through the full incorporation of the Olweus Bully Prevention Program, a nationally recognized model program designed to reduce and prevent bullying and to improve peer relations at school.

On October 11, the Middle School sponsored a Bully Prevention Program Kick-Off Day. The celebration of the school's commitment to bully prevention and bystander action will be exemplified through the motto of "We Stand Up... We Don't Stand By!"

The celebration included a school-wide motivational assembly that was headlined by Congressman Steve Israel who spoke to the students about his own personal experi-

ence with bullying. His talk was touching.

Also included in the festivities was a student produced film in which members of our school community, students, teachers, cafeteria workers, custodians, teacher aides, parents, administrators, and bus drivers, will commit themselves to "Stand Up" against bullying!

The united effort culminated with students, staff, parents, and all members of the school community coming together to set a record for "The largest group to collectively pledge to stand up to bullying" with World Record Setters. The record was set with 931 confirmed participants.

Middle School Social Worker Joanne Verdino notes, "The quote that resonated with me throughout the process was, 'Individually we are one drop, together we are one ocean,' by Ryunosuki Satoro and that became a central theme of our Kick-Off Program. Although, the quote's reference to the power of a united group clearly applied to our theme of Standing Up, I was even more touched by its meaning in reference to the collective efforts of the Jericho Middle School staff in the year, months, days, hours and minutes leading up to our Kick-Off Assembly. Everyone's enthusiasm and commitment were inspiring and contagious."



*Congressman Steve Israel shared his personal experiences with the students during the celebration. ▲*



*A total of 931 students and staff members, wearing the same shirts, pledged to stand up to bullying by saying "I pledge to stand up to bullying. We don't stand by: we stand up!" This was a record setting event and is listed on recordsetter.com. ▲*

## *Jericho Boys Soccer Team Wins New York State Championship*



For the second year in a row, the Jericho boys soccer team won the New York State Championship. Pictured are seniors - Jesse Buller, Zachary Cohen, Abraham Fatehi, Michael Gang, Jared Garten, Alexander Genatt, Ari Lewis, Brian Lowenstein, Derek Medolla, Anjani Motta, David Orr, Harrison Rieber, Bradley Wank, Brandon Wood, and Josh Yardeni. Juniors - Jonathan Amodio, Tyler Amodio, Jason Barbagallo, Michael Blumberg, Robert Busam, Reed Ginsberg, David Greenbaum, Andrew Greenblatt, Jack Roberts, Drew Shuman, Noah Zeiff, and Jake Zorfas. Sophomore - Zachary Brown, and freshman Barry Sharifi. Also pictured are head coach Dani Braga and Assistant Coach James Whelan. Congratulations to the team, as well as to John Mankowich, Curriculum Associate for Health, Physical Education and Athletics.

### *Trudi Ann Patrick Takes First Place at the New York State Swimming Championship*



Trudi Ann Patrick is congratulated by (L-R) Coach Richard Stern; Curriculum Associate for Health, Physical Education and Athletics, John Mankowich; and High School Principal Joe Priszano at the recent Sports Recognition Night for taking first place in the 100 Yard Fly at the recent New York State Swimming Championship.

### *Want to Receive the District's Emails?*

To sign up for SNS, go to [web.jerichoschools.org/sns/snsdefault.asp](http://web.jerichoschools.org/sns/snsdefault.asp) and fill in the "Create a New Profile" form. After clicking on "Create New Account," a new page will appear. Click the checkbox next to "Jericho Community News" then click "Submit Changes."



## Hurricane Sandy

(Continued from page 1)

with Lido Elementary and West Elementary, both in the Long Beach School District. Both schools lost everything and the buildings suffered great damage. Our schools are collecting new books as well as fundraising to help the teachers get their classrooms set up for the students once they can return to the buildings. The teachers lost everything that was in the classrooms, including instructional materials and books.

Cantiague Elementary School has adopted Hegarty Elementary School in Island Park. Although the district lost so much, the kindergarten program was hit the hardest. Cantiague has started fundraising efforts to replace books, materials, and supplies.

For updates on all of the fundraising efforts throughout the district, please visit [www.jerichoschools.org/news/hurricane\\_sandy\\_relief](http://www.jerichoschools.org/news/hurricane_sandy_relief)

**Follow the Jericho School District on Twitter:  
[Twitter.com/JerichoUFSD](https://twitter.com/JerichoUFSD)**

## Jericho's Board of Education Approves 2012-2013 Calendar Changes

At the November Board of Education Meeting, the revised 2012 - 2013 school calendar was adopted.

The parent conference days originally scheduled on November 21 at the Middle School and High School, December 7 at the Elementary Schools and March 22 at the Elementary Schools, are now regular student attendance days. As always, ongoing communication between parents and staff will be a priority and will continue to take place throughout the school year.

April 1st and 2nd, originally scheduled as vacation days as part of our spring recess, will now be student attendance days.

"I realize that this change will be an inconvenience to many of us, but given the loss of eight instructional days, we felt that this plan was the best of all possible options," said Superintendent Hank Grishman.

According to New York State Department of Education's

Commissioner's regulation, we are not permitted to have school on legal holidays, such as Veterans Day and Martin Luther King Day.

In the event of snow, for the remainder of the school year, the district will start with a delayed opening to better assess road conditions before making the decision to close schools.

Please check the district website for an updated calendar. Noted calendar changes include:

Staff Recognition Night – Jan. 3  
High School Fashion Show – Jan. 12  
MS Winter Bands Concert – Jan. 7  
HS Winter Bands Concert – Jan. 28

The Board of Education Meeting and Budget Workshop #1 will remain on Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Seaman Elementary School. Budget Workshop #2 will remain on Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

## Ed Friedlander Announces Retirement After 11 Years In Jericho

### Dr. John Castronova Named Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services



**Dr. John Castronova**

Ed Friedlander is retiring from the Jericho School District after 11 years as the Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

At the November Board of Education, the Board named Dr. John Castronova the Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Dr. Castronova has been the Curriculum Associate for Special Education in Jericho for the last four and half years. In Jericho, he is responsible for the development and implementation of the instructional programs for students with disabilities in kindergarten through high school.

Dr. Castronova has over 30 years of diverse experience in the field of special education, of which 12 years has been as a supervisor or administrator. In addition to being certified as a school administrator, Dr. Castronova is certified as a school psychologist and a special education teacher. His career working with children and adults spans all ranges of ability in a variety of public and private special education settings.

Dr. Castronova has also taught in the departments of humanities, education and school administration as an Adjunct Professor at PACE University, Adelphi University, College of New Rochelle and the School of Visual Arts. He serves on various committees as an active member of the Long Island Association of Special Education Administrators.

"We are delighted that John was named Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services," said Superintendent Hank Grishman. "John is a highly respected member of our administrative team, and he has displayed strong leadership skills throughout our special education program. I am confident that there will be a seamless transition. We wish Ed all the best in his retirement as he works to complete his 'bucket list.' We thank him for his leadership and his years of dedicated service in helping us achieve Jericho's motto of 'Success for Every Student.'"

## What's Happening Around Jericho's Elementary Schools

### Robert Seaman Elementary School



*A local Police Officer speaks to Seaman Students during the Community Read-In.*

During October and November, Seaman has been very busy with a variety of events. PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) was sponsored by the Seaman PTA in mid-October and the children were treated to a very special visit by author/illustrator Barbara McClintock. Also that week, Seaman held its annual Community Read-In where special guests from the community read to each of the 17 classes. Fire Prevention Assemblies were held in October for all Seaman students. On October 15th, the fifth graders met author, Jack Gantos, at a special author discussion hosted by the Jericho Public Library. Other field trips included the third graders at Safety Town and the kindergarten classes at White Post Farms. Later in October Seaman supported Red Ribbon Week with a "Medicine is Not Candy" assembly, a variety of thematic days, and a display of healthy choice footprints around the entrance of the school. First, third, fourth, and fifth grades hosted Open Houses for the parents on topics such as oceanography and Thanksgiving. Kindergarten and second grade will be hosting Open Houses in December. As always, Seaman school keeps busy as we enter December.

The 2012/13 school year is a special one for the entire Cantiague community. We kicked-off this year, which is the 50th Anniversary of Cantiague Elementary School, with the announcement that we were selected as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School. Cantiague was selected because of its consistently high performance on various state assessments and was one of 300 schools across the country to receive this honor. Additionally, this year the students of Cantiague voted to add a sixth component to support our Bucket Filling Philosophy (previously known as the Big Five). The children now work toward achieving the Super Six - Being a Superstar, Being Responsible, Being Respectful, Being Safe, Being Positive and Being Kind! The children believe in this way of life and work each day toward being Bucket Fillers. Each week we honor about six students as Bucket Fillers of the Week. Finally, in grades K-2 we launched a new mathematics resource, Math in Focus. The resource is based on the Common Core and will challenge our children to develop mathematical understandings using the concrete, pictorial and abstract levels.

### Cantiague Elementary School



*Cantiague students show off the Blue Ribbon Award with Principal Tony Sinanis at a recent BOE Meeting.*

### George A. Jackson Elementary School



*Kindergarten students at Jackson pass a bell during a lesson on gratitude as they sit in a Peace Circle.*

The last month has been extremely challenging as a result of the terrible devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy. This provided our students with an opportunity to reflect upon what is most important and enduring in their lives. Students were given the opportunity to express their thoughts orally, in writing and in artwork as they celebrated school-wide themes of peace, friendship and gratitude.

Students in all grade levels had wonderful experiences during recent field trips: Kindergartners visited Green Meadow Farm, first grade visited Fort Salonga Farm, third grade visited the Brookville Environmental Center and the Jericho Public Library, fourth grade enjoyed an in-school presentation entitled Journeys into American Indian Territories (sponsored by the Jackson PTA), and fifth grade continued their study of oceanography through their Soundwater experience and a trip to the Norwalk Aquarium.

The PTA held their annual book fair that included a night where students had "Dessert with Dad" and were able to enjoy another night with a special "VIP." Our PTA also sponsored an assembly program for the entire student body entitled "Box Out Bullying."

It has indeed been a busy time at Jackson!

# After a Rainout, Homecoming a Success for Jericho



The football team played a great game under the lights! ▲

Mother Nature is not taking it easy this year. Original Homecoming festivities were cancelled because of rain, but went off without a hitch on the new dates. Jericho residents enjoyed the rides, games and, most importantly, all of the Jayhawk sporting events that took place throughout the weekend.

Chandler Kirby and Colleen McCormack were named Homecoming King and Queen. The weekend-long festivities were a hit with residents of all ages.



Chandler Kirby and Colleen McCormack were named 2012 Homecoming King and Queen ▲



This student, and Spiderman, enjoy the slide! ▲



Students enjoyed the Pep Rally activities ▲



The Jayhawk takes a rest in his nest. ▲

## Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753  
(516) 203-3600

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December 2012

Jericho School News

## Students Named Siemens Semifinalists



Jericho students Ken Aizawa, Kevin Huang, Brendan Liu, and Michael Shen were named semifinalists in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology, the nation's premier research competition for high school students.

The students were four of only 322 semifinalists nationally. "We are really proud of these students and all of the hard work that they have done," said Brian Cummings, Curriculum Associate for Science and Technology. "This accomplishment is a result of support from the district as well as the research department, and Science Research Coordinator, Serena McCalla."

Pictured (L-R) are Science Research Coordinator and High School Teacher Serena McCalla, Semifinalists Michael Shen, Kevin Huang, Brendan Liu, and Ken Aizawa and Brian Cummings, Curriculum Associate for Science and Technology.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Talent Show - Bring Back the Music

Wednesday, December 12th  
MS/HS Auditorium  
7 PM

### Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, December 13th  
Jackson Elementary School  
7:30 PM

### Schools Closed

Monday, December 24th  
Tuesday, January 1st

### Staff Recognition Reception

Thursday, January 3rd  
MS/HS Auditorium  
7 PM

### BOE Meeting/Budget Workshop #1

Thursday, January 17th  
Seaman Elementary School  
7:30 PM

### Budget Workshop #2

Thursday, January 24th  
Middle School Library  
7:30 PM