A total of 52 students at Long Beach High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations during the 2010-2011 school year. Only 18 percent of the more than 1.8 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to earn an AP Scholar Award.

The 2011 Valedictorian Jordan Ochs and senior Ambrose Plante both qualified as National AP Scholars, the highest honor bestowed by the program. A total of 14 students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, 10 earned the AP Scholar with Honor Award, and 26 qualified for the AP Scholar Award. For a complete list of AP Scholars, visit www.lbeach.org.

The AP Program is just one of three college-level programs offered at Long Beach High School. Students can select to participate in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and can also choose from among 11 other college-level courses offered through the Syracuse University Project Advance and other colleges.

AMBROSE PLANTE Named National Merit Semifinalist

Long Beach High School senior Ambrose Plante has been named a Semifinalist in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. As a Semifinalist, he ranks among the top one percent of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the National Merit Scholarship Corporation’s Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, better known as the PSAT. He will now have the opportunity to advance and compete for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships to be awarded next spring.

Four National Merit Commended Students

Long Beach High School seniors (l to r) Jane Smyth, Aditi Gupta, Lila Martin and Jonathan Klus have been named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), only 34,000 were named Commended Students, placing them in the top five percent of all students who took the test.

Reaching New Heights in the New School Year

As the new school year begins, the district continues its ongoing work to challenge all students to reach their true potential, integrate technology to enhance classroom instruction, promote social emotional learning and encourage communication with parents. Read more inside...
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

Over the last few months, I have had the opportunity to speak with many of you about your hopes and aspirations for our students. I share with you the desire to have the very best programs and opportunities for our students. As I visit the schools and classrooms, I experience the excitement for learning that our teachers inspire every day.

In this issue of Connections you will read about some of the accomplishments that we are celebrating and the initiatives that we are working on to ensure that our community and students can take pride in our schools.

Sincerely,

David Weiss
Superintendent of Schools

Communications:

Enhancing the Home-School Connection

One of the district’s goals for the year is to enhance communications among our schools, parents and the community. Below are just a few examples.

New Website

On August 30, the district launched a new design for its website, www.lbeach.org. The site incorporates many added features that make it easier for students, parents and other district residents to access all the latest school news, events, information and resources. The new interactive calendar gives visitors the option to customize, export and print events for individual schools.

Lido School

Lido School has introduced a monthly Parent/Principal Coffee Klatch, whose theme for the year is “Parents Participating with Power.” Topics will include: 103 things to do before/during/after reading to your child; parenting ideas that really work; building study skills; the influence of home on school success; and improving discipline.

Middle School

Over the summer, the Middle School launched a newsletter called “Middle Matters” that will be mailed out with interim progress reports and report cards. ParentLink phone messages will be used to inform parents of important meetings and information. In addition, the PTA is collecting e-mail addresses and sending out weekly reports each Friday.

Guidance

The goal of the district’s guidance department is to ensure that every child achieves at the highest level he or she can by fostering communication and providing ongoing support to students and their parents. Students are encouraged to develop a strong relationship with their school counselors to help them explore their strengths and interests, learn to deal with stress, manage conflict and develop critical thinking skills.

Sabrina Cantore has been officially appointed to serve as the Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Ms. Cantore most recently served as the Interim Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Pupil Services for Great Neck Public Schools. She joined the Great Neck special education department in July of 2002 as a Supervisor of Special Education, and later served as the Assistant Director and the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services.

Partnership with Island Park Saves Both Districts Thousands

The Long Beach and Island Park School Districts have reached a new agreement to share transportation services. The increased economy of shared busing will result in $90,000 in savings for Long Beach and $130,000 in savings for Island Park. The two districts have enjoyed a decades-long cooperative relationship of shared services. Long Beach has provided maintenance services for Island Park buses for 30 years, and began allowing Island Park buses to use its fueling station three years ago, saving taxpayers $18,000 annually. A growing number of Island Park students also attend Long Beach High School as part of a cooperative agreement that began in 2008. The two districts will continue to explore future opportunities to expand the use of shared services to realize further savings.

FEMA Disaster Assistance

The application deadline for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been extended to November 16, 2011 for residents who are unemployed as a direct result of flooding caused by Hurricane Irene. For information about this and other FEMA Disaster Assistance, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
The district welcomed new members to its instructional staff with a comprehensive three-day orientation program to inform them about policies and procedures, introduce them to the district’s latest curriculum and technology, and acquaint them with their new school community.

On July 18, 2011, the NYS Board of Regents adopted the “Educating the Whole Child, Engaging the Whole School: Guidelines and Resources for Social and Emotional Development and Learning (SEDL) in New York State.” These voluntary guidelines offer districts information and resources to: motivate students to engage in learning; promote positive peer relationships, develop self-direction and collaborative skills; get along in a pluralist community; avoid risky behaviors; and find help when feeling sad or hopeless. To view the guidelines, visit www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/sedl.

Long Beach administrators and teachers have already begun using these guidelines to help assess the district’s ongoing efforts to promote social and emotional development and learning.

To start the year off on a positive note, schools throughout the district celebrated Bully Prevention Week. Students read and discussed stories such as *The Revealers*, celebrated the Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship), brainstormed anti-bullying strategies, performed random acts of kindness, participated in exercises that helped them understand the power of their words to hurt and to heal, and pledged to be upstanders rather than bystanders when they witness bullying. They also practiced bully-prevention strategies such as SAFE (Say what you feel; Ask for help; Find a friend; Exit the area), and “Stop, Think and Decide.” These concepts will continue to be promoted throughout the year.

Social and emotional development and learning (SEDL) has an important role to play in making schools safe, maintaining a caring school climate, facilitating students’ holistic development, and enhancing motivation and high achievement.

Long Beach Middle School students created tiles to represent causes that they would like to support this year.

Welcome New Teachers

The district welcomed new members to its instructional staff with a comprehensive three-day orientation program to inform them about policies and procedures, introduce them to the district’s latest curriculum and technology, and acquaint them with their new school community.

New Instructional Staff

- Paige Ankudovych, H S English
- Ian Butler, M S Permanent Substitute
- Michael Capobianco, H S Music
- Allison Cohen, M S Math
- Jessica Gaglione, H S Music
- Meghan Gallagher, East Grade 3
- Kelly Honerkamp, M S Math
- Christine Lynch, H S Reading
- Nadia Madasci, H S Foreign Language
- Alyssa Mazurek, M S Science
- Michael Micucci, M S Foreign Language
- Soribeth Milito, Lido FLES
- Grace Parisi, M S/Elementary Math
- Kyle Pearl, M S Permanent Substitute
- Nicole Polstein, Districtwide Music
- David Prince, H S Math
- Elizabeth Rodriguez-Peña, H S Foreign Language
- John Towers, H S Math
- Idyle Tsousis, M S Math
- Daniel Vaeth, H S Science
- Jessica Zima, H S Science
- Melissa Zimmerman, East Grade 4

Bully Prevention Week

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Pre-K teacher Beth Ann Salter read her students a color and counting book that taught them how to “stand up and say ‘no’ to bullies because “everyone counts.”
Integrating Technology in the Classroom

**READ 180:** As part of the district’s continuing emphasis on improving literacy instruction, two new Scholastic “Read 180” classrooms are being introduced at the West and East elementary schools. These rooms complement the two Read 180 Labs that already exist at the Lindell and Lido elementary schools.

**EXPERT 21:** The technology component of the Scholastic “Expert 21” comprehensive English Language Arts curriculum is being introduced to support instruction at the middle school. The program employs web-based technology to accelerate the acquisition of standards-aligned literacy skills to ensure that all students are college and career ready.

**FASTT MATH:** To help all students develop fluency with basic arithmetic facts, the Scholastic “FASTT Math” program is being expanded into the middle school. The program assesses all students to identify fluency gaps, establishes a baseline for each student, and differentiates instruction to ensure that all students build the basic tools they will need to master higher-order math skills.

**TECHNOLOGY-ENRICHED CLASSROOMS:** Technology-enriched ELA and math classrooms have been added, each equipped with five new Dell OptiPlex computers, one new laser printer and Internet access. An upgrade to the Middle School Scantek Technology Lab is in progress. When completed, the lab will provide students with a myriad of advanced technology and multimedia learning opportunities.

Common Core Learning Standards

On January 10, 2011, the NYS Board of Regents approved the recommended additions to the Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy and Mathematics, intended to ensure that schools are giving students the skills they will need to be ready for college and careers.

The district will be using these standards to define instruction not just in ELA and math, but in other disciplines as well. Director of English Language Arts Joshua Anisansel and Director of Mathematics Cherese Pemberton will be presenting an overview for parents at upcoming elementary PTA meetings. More information about the state standards can be found at: www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/pdfdocs/nysp12ccsel.pdf.

English Language Arts

- To align with Common Core Standards, the Grade 6 English curriculum has been revised to include more non-fiction reading and writing. The Scholastic Expert 21 program is being used in seventh and eighth-grade classes to place greater emphasis on non-fiction reading and writing, great works of fiction and rich discussions about reading and the world.
- The Grade 9-10 English curriculum has been revised to include more rigor and more complex texts.
- The International Baccalaureate English HL course for upperclassmen began its second year.
- The district will administer the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessment to students in grades K-5 twice this year. This information will be used to communicate with parents about their children's progress and to help individualize instruction.
- The district will administer a writing benchmark assessment twice this year, focusing on narrative and expository writing. These pieces will be compiled in students' writing portfolios, which have been designed to parallel the writing demands of the Common Core Standards and to demonstrate students' growth over time.
- The Read 180 program, which was piloted at the middle school, has been expanded to include each of the elementary schools this year. This will give teachers another valuable resource to help struggling readers.
- The Leveled Literacy Intervention program will continue to be utilized in the early elementary grades. The aim of this small-group remedial reading program is to help students close reading gaps as early as possible.
**Mathematics**

- Common Core Standards have been introduced in grades K-2. Grade 5-8 teachers have received an overview.
- All K-5 classrooms have adopted the enVision Math program this year. This web-based program can also be accessed from home, giving parents another tool to partner with teachers to help their children succeed. There will be a special enVision Math Parent Workshop on November 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Lindell School. For more information, visit www.lbeach.org.

**Science**

- To support the implementation of Common Core Standards, science students will be reading and summarizing more non-fiction texts such as Science News. There will also be continued emphasis on writing research papers at the secondary level.
- Teachers received training over the summer to make use of a mobile science lab cart in classroom instruction.
- The K-7 science curriculum has been revised to include science fair and competition opportunities at all grade levels.
- The science department will evaluate last year’s NYS Science Assessment results to inform instruction. More frequent common assessments will be utilized for test data analysis at the departmental level.
- A grant from Long Island Cares will be used to increase science literacy through the use of technology in the classroom.

**Social Studies**

- The process of integrating the ELA Common Core Writing Standards into the social studies curriculum has begun this year.
- Curriculum for grades 4-12 has been developed using the Understanding by Design model to reach all students at their current level, and challenge them to achieve at higher levels.
- Middle School and High School students will be making greater use of laptops and computer labs to compile research, develop original analytical products and create presentations.

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**College Corner**

**SENIORS PREPARE FOR COLLEGE**

At Senior Parent College Information Night, Guidance Director Patricia Hausfeld reviewed graduation requirements, SAT/ACT exams, financial aid, and the 100% electronic college application process that will be used this year for the first time. Hofstra University’s Director of Admissions Sunil Samuel (pictured above) advised students to start early, visit colleges, show intent and observe deadlines. Students and their parents were urged to work closely with their counselors to ensure success.

**COLLEGE MINI FAIRS**

On September 26 & October 24, the Guidance Department hosted its Fall College Mini Fairs, giving seniors and their parents the opportunity to meet with admissions representatives from over 40 colleges. Another fair for juniors will take place on April 23.

**WEB RESOURCES**

Visit the guidance page at www.lbeach.org for upcoming parent meetings, college fairs, information sessions and on-the-spot admissions events. Also find links to dozens of useful sites, including the online college planning guide, “Naviance: Career Connection.”

**Upcoming Events:**

- December 8 - Financial Aid Night, 7 pm
- March 1 - Grade 11 Parent/Student Meeting, 7 pm

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**In this enVision Math lesson, students practice writing equations.**
**COMMUNITY CONNECTION:**

**Students Team with Quicksilver to Aid Local Causes, Inspire Greatness**

**Making Armbands for 9/11 Paddle Out**

In cooperation with the Quiksilver Foundation, Long Beach High School social studies students did their part to commemorate 9/11 by making more than 300 black armbands decorated with the names of people who lost their lives on that tragic day. The armbands were worn by Long Beach High School Surf Club members, Quiksilver Pro competitors, lifeguards and others who took part in the Annual O'Keefe Foundation 9/11 Memorial Paddle Out.

The Quiksilver Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to benefiting and enhancing the quality of life for communities of board riders across the world by supporting environmental, educational, health and youth-related projects.

**Magnolia Playground Cleanup**

Long Beach High School students joined forces with the Quiksilver Foundation to help the City of Long Beach clean up the Magnolia Street Park, which was damaged by Tropical Storm Irene. High School Surf Team members and students in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program helped shovel mounds of sand and remove debris, making short work of the cleanup job. World Champion surfer Kelly Slater and local legend Balaram Stack also dropped in to help out.

The students participated in this cleanup as a living memorial to their Surf Club coach, teacher and environmentalist, Daniel Bobis, who died this summer in a tragic surfing accident off the coast of Indonesia.

**Olympic Gold Medalist Visits LBHS**

While the Quiksilver Pro Competition was in town, Olympic gold medal snowboarder Torah Bright visited Long Beach High School. She talked to students about how her Olympic experience taught her the importance of both mental and physical strength, emphasizing the importance of hard work and effort to achieve success. When asked to put a number on it, she said that her success was 99 percent effort and 1 percent talent.
**Spotlight on the Arts**

**All-State Music Honors**

Juniors Russell Goetz and Joseph Keiserman have been selected to perform at the 2011 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Winter Conference in Rochester, NY on December 1-4. Russell earned the distinction of being accepted to both the Mixed Chorus and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. He will perform with the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Joseph, who plays double bass, was selected for the Symphony Orchestra. Seniors Annie Winerip (jazz trumpet) and Grace Smith (flute) have been selected as alternates to the All-State Ensembles. This is one of the highest honors bestowed on high school music students in New York State.

Senior Jesse Klirsfeld will be performing at the conference with the Adelphi University Pre-College Jazz Combo.

**Drama Production: The Dining Room**

November 17-19

Drama and wit will be on the menu as the High School Drama Department presents A.R. Gurney’s “The Dining Room,” a series of vignettes about the upper middle-class family life that earned a 1982 Pulitzer Prize nomination. Performances are on November 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. There will be a special FREE dress rehearsal performance for senior citizens on November 15 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are $10 and are available at the door. To reserve tickets, call 897-6500.

**Marching Band Festival**

The Long Beach High School Marching Band and Color Guard performed a high-stepping tribute to Billy Joel at the 49th Annual Newsday Marching Band Festival at Hofstra University on October 18. The Festival, which acts as a fundraiser for the participating bands, will air in its entirety on IO TV Channel 14 on Thanksgiving Day. For photos and video, visit: www.msgvarsity.com/marchingbands or www.newsday.com/marchingbandfestival.

**Long Island Scholar Artist**

Senior Gabriella Klein received an Award of Merit in Dance from the Scholar Artist Program. The program, which is sponsored by the Long Island Alliance for the Arts in cooperation with Newsday, recognizes talented students in the fine and performing arts. She was one of only 20 Long Island students to be honored with this award. A student of Irish step dancing for ten years, Gabriella has competed with the Hagen School of Irish Dance in five world championships. She has also studied modern dance in the high school dance program, which was introduced in the fall of 2010.

**Non-Discrimination Policy, Public Notification**

No student shall, on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, disability or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to unlawful discrimination under any career and technical education program or activity. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to: Dr. Randie Berger or Michael I. DeVito, Esq., Title IX Coordinators, 235 Lido Blvd, Long Beach, NY 11561, 516-897-2112 or 516-897-2090, respectively, or Sabrina Cantore, Section 504 Coordinator, 601 Lindell Blvd, Long Beach, NY 11561, 516-897-2200.

**Política de no discriminación, Notificación Pública**

Ningún estudiante, en base a su género, orientación sexual, raza, color, origen, incapacidad o edad podrá ser excluido de participar en cualquier carrera y programa técnico educativo o actividad, o ser negado de los beneficios como partícipe de éstos, de lo contrario estará siendo sujeto a discriminación ilegal en base a lo estipulado anteriormente. Las preguntas con respecto a la política de no discriminación deben ser dirigidas a: Dr. Randie Berger o Michael I. DeVito, Esq., Coordinadores Título IX, 235 Lido Blvd, Long Beach, NY 11561, 516-897-2112 or 516-897-2090, o Sabrina Cantore, Coordinadora Sección 504, 601 Lindell Blvd, Long Beach, NY, 516-897-2200.
LBHS Homecoming Victory

The damp, rainy weather did not deter fans who filled the stands at Veterans Field to cheer the Marines on to a 34-7 Homecoming victory against Bellmore JFK. Peter Amabile had 78 rushing yards and a touchdown on three carries. Tom Rowley had 56 rushing yards and a touchdown, as well as 147 passing yards and two touchdown passes.

The Homecoming Carnival, sponsored by the Student Government Organization, attracted record crowds despite the inclement weather.

The Varsity Football team will be sponsoring the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation during the fall season. To support this cause, donations were collected at the gate and at the concession stand.

Football is just one of seven middle school and 17 high school fall sports teams that students may join. More than 600 students participate in fall team sports at the middle school and high school.

Three New Wall of Fame Inductees

Homecoming weekend was capped off with a ceremony on Saturday morning to induct new members to the Long Beach High School Wall of Fame. This year’s inductees were Pulitzer prize-winning historian Eric Foner (Class of 1959), renowned doctor and cancer researcher Steven Libutti (Class of 1982) and Vietnam War veteran and retired Long Beach Police Detective Thomas Parker (Class of 1963). The Wall of Fame was dedicated in 1996 by the Long Beach Booster Club in cooperation with the Long Beach Public Schools to serve as an inspiration for the youth of Long Beach. For complete bios of this year’s honorees, visit www.lbeach.org.