



Observer

DECEMBER 2023

Student-Athletes Commit to College Teams



Six student-athletes from Oyster Bay High School made their college commitments on Dec. 12 to play their sport of choice at the next level. The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District congratulates the following seniors on this exciting next chapter:

Baseball

Dominic Carleo – SUNY New Paltz
Gianni Rizzuto – Pace University
Thomas Rizzuto – Adelphi University
Brendan O’Brien – Muhlenberg College

Fencing

Nicole Krumholz – Denison University

Lacrosse

Chiara Rutigliano – SUNY New Paltz

STEM Night at James H. Vernon School

Students and families from James H. Vernon School gathered for STEM Night on Dec. 5. Throughout the event, students in grades 3-6 and their family members rotated through three different STEM stations in the building, deepening their understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts.

In the school’s gymnasium, Mad Science Long Island brought chemistry to life with its show, “Spin, Pop, Boom.” The show’s host, Static Shannon, encouraged student participation as she demonstrated how different chemicals react. In the school’s Butler Building, students had fun programming their own Dash robot using Blockly to code

it. They were challenged to complete tasks with Dash such as cleaning up pom poms and creating a Lego hat for him and then getting him to school. Students also struck a pose at a selfie station and participated in an augmented reality station where they colored a picture and brought their creation to life on the Quiver app.

They continued their hands-on exploration with a fun “Balancing Bird Perch” station in the school’s cafeteria. Led by the Long Island Children’s Museum, each student worked with their family members and used duct tape, scissors and straws to try and build the tallest structure possible while successfully balancing a bird on top. Students



and their family members worked together to problem solve and find new ways to make their structure stand.

The event was a positive way to get students excited about STEM through engaging activities and stations.

Songs of the Season

Winter concerts and musical showcases were held across the district this month, where students performed winter-themed songs and holiday classics for family and friends.





Baymen Backstage Hosts 4-D Movie Night

Two hundred and five community members from the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District attended Baymen Backstage's 4-D Family Movie Night of "Elf" on Dec. 16. Snow, smoke, snowballs, mists of water, special effect lighting and the smells of maple syrup filled the air in the Oyster Bay High School auditorium to create a truly immersive movie experience.

Author Experience

Seventh and eighth grade students at Oyster Bay High School participated in a live virtual author study and writing lesson with nationally recognized author Kwame Alexander and special guest, author Judy Blume.

Prior to the event, English teachers Megan Galimoto, Sean Hogya and Diana Yen collaboratively led an anticipatory lesson in the cOllaB space where students read excerpts from Alexander's young adult books. They also analyzed the texts for elements related to

Alexander's life and made personal connections to his works.

On Dec. 6, students gathered once again in the cOllaB space where they enjoyed Alexander's reading of "Booked" and a short mini lesson where he delved into the craft of developing characters. Blume then joined the virtual discussion. Students enjoyed hearing her talk about her well-known books and



characters and her approach to writing and growing ideas, inspiring minds and fostering creativity one page at a time!



THEODORE ROOSEVELT STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Students throughout Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School celebrated the holiday season with special lessons and events. Teachers showcased their creativity and incorporated winter holidays such as Hanukkah into their instruction. Kindergartners in Ronni Lubin's class practiced adding and subtracting by playing with a dreidel. In addition, classes participated in holiday events in the classroom, took part in seasonal read-alouds and created their own gingerbread houses.