



Observer

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Penguin Experts

As part of their Readers' Theater experience, Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School second graders in Alison Cavuto's class visited pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes to perform the book "Tacky the Penguin," by Helen Lester. Since the main characters in their story were penguins, the second graders completed research about the animal and shared their findings with the young students.

In addition, the second graders shared stuffed penguins that they created from socks and helped the young students make their own penguin puppets. They also taught a penguin dance to the classes. The visits were a great way to support the second graders' expressive language skills and build their self-confidence.



Reading With PARP

Students at James H. Vernon School immersed themselves in books during the school's Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) Week. This year's PARP theme was "The Great Escape: Reading takes you away!" Sponsored by the New York State PTA and the Oyster Bay-East Norwich PTA, PARP was designed to foster a lifelong love of reading in children by promoting reading together as a family.

Throughout the week, students participated in exciting activities in school and at home that encouraged reading. In the school library, each class put their problem-solving skills to the test in an escape room activity featuring some favorite fantasy books.

The week also featured beautifully decorated hallways, special dress-up days and a chart in the school lobby to track each class's reading progress. Students were asked to log how many minutes they read each day through Google Classroom. The class with the most minutes received a prize. The fun-filled week was a great way to celebrate the magic of books!

Gold Key Winner

Oyster Bay High School senior Paige Sweeney was recognized as a Gold Key winner in the prestigious Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, the award program honors creative students in grades 7-12 through different art and writing categories.

Paige was presented with the Gold Key for an original motion poem that she created in Dr. Deirdre Faughey's Advanced Placement English Language and Composition class last year. For one of the class assignments, Dr. Faughey asked her students to create a short video that presented a poem visually. Paige wrote an original poem and created a stop-motion video. Her entry, "There is Time," was considered in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards' Film and Animation category.

As a Gold Key winner, Paige is in the running to be considered for a national award. This includes national medals and scholarships. National winners will be announced this March. Congratulations, Paige!



100 DAYS SMARTER



Students from Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School celebrated the 100th day of school in style on February 9th. Students and staff, including Principal Tami McElwee, dressed like 100-year-olds or wore special 100-day shirts and hats. Students also engaged in lessons and activities throughout the school day which were based on the number 100.



A Spotlight on Firefighting Opportunities

Sixth graders from James H. Vernon School received a visit from the East Norwich Junior Firefighters. Classes gathered in the school's cafeteria to learn about the East Norwich Junior Firefighter program and hear from some Oyster Bay High School students who are currently involved as junior firefighters.

Junior firefighters and Oyster Bay High School students Khadeejah Memon, Nicholas Syrett and Steven Wulforst spoke to the students about the East Norwich Junior Firefighters program which trains individuals ages 12 to 18 to become firefighters. They educated students on what they do, provided an overview of their training program, discussed community service, leadership opportunities, and more.

Following their presentation, Nassau County Fire Marshal Matthew F. Kerin was introduced. A K9 handler in Nassau County's investigation division, Mr. Kerin spoke to students about his job and introduced them to his partner Leah. The students were thrilled as Leah, a Labrador Retriever, walked into the cafeteria. Mr. Kerin explained Leah's background and how she plays an important role in the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. As an accelerant detection canine, Leah helps Kerin with investigations using her highly trained senses.

Both presentations were a great way to educate the sixth graders on how they can get involved now in the fire department and shined a light on possible career paths.

Celebrating Black History Month

Members of Oyster Bay High School's Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society worked together to commemorate Black History Month. The students pooled their efforts into two areas to celebrate African Americans in our nation's history.

They created posters which celebrated the achievements of African Americans throughout history and displayed them in the hallway of the Social Studies wing. The students established a design criterion for all to adhere to which resulted in a uniform look, while still allowing for creativity. Students included an image and an inspiring quote from their person, along with information on how their individual impacted history.

The Rho Kappa students also teamed up with the school's newscast, Bay News Now, to create a segment on the morning announcements to celebrate Black History Month. They generated news segments that featured prominent African Americans who were not featured on their posters. Thus, students would hear about interesting and important African Americans to start off their school day.



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