



# Observer

MAY 2023

## *A Look Back:* **World Down Syndrome Day**

March 21st marked World Down Syndrome Day. Students and staff throughout the district celebrated this important occasion by wearing blue and yellow, the designated colors of the cause, and bright and mismatched socks. Colorful paper socks could be found on a beautifully decorated wall inside James H. Vernon School. It was a great day to raise awareness of Down Syndrome.



## **YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS**



Fourth grade classes from James H. Vernon School participated in this year's "Share the Shore" student sign initiative in which 24 students were recognized. The contest was run by Audubon New York, which seeks to attract park visitors' attention with eye-catching student artwork to show the importance of protecting bird species for future generations.

With the help of their art teacher, Karen Crowley, each fourth grader created a sign showing local endangered birds, their nests and their babies, along with a statement asking beachgoers to be aware of them and to take action to protect them. Students at James H. Vernon School have participated in this joint art/science project for several years, sharing their love for these beautiful creatures in their scientific and colorful illustrations of them.

Approximately 20 Vernon students will have their winning artwork transformed into weather-resistant signs to be displayed at local beaches. Their winning designs will also be featured at the Nassau County Museum of Art on June 11th from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## *Achievement Award in Writing Winner*

Oyster Bay High School junior Deanna Besart recently earned a 2023 Achievement Award in Writing by the National Council of Teachers of English. The NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing is a school-based writing program established in 1957 to encourage high school students to write, and to recognize some of the best student writers in the nation. Only students who are juniors may participate. Schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Canada and American schools abroad are eligible to nominate students for the writing program.

This year, schools across the country nominated 360 students. Two to three independent judges scored each submission on expression of ideas, language use, and unique perspective and voice. Deanna is a student in Dr. Deirdre Faughey's Advanced Placement Language and Composition class. She wrote a powerful essay that combines personal anecdotes and academic research to argue for ways in which schools can better support immigrant students.

Congratulations, Deanna!





# NEW Turf Field

May 6th marked a special day for the Oyster Bay community as the district officially cut the purple ribbon on Oyster Bay High School's new multisport turf field. Proud community members, central and building administrators, and students gathered on the new field for the momentous occasion.

The turf field, located behind the high school, was funded through the district's 21st Century Capital Improvements Bond Referendum which passed in 2021. It replaced the high school's old grass field and took approximately four months to complete.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Oyster Bay High School band performed, and members of the high school's broadcasting team, Bay News Now, livestreamed the event for viewers at home. The ceremony featured several key speakers, including Deputy Superintendent Maureen Raynor, Physical Education, Health and Athletics Director Eric Bramoff, Oyster Bay High School Acting Principal Melissa Argaman, senior student-athletes Ian Lubin and Faith Lingen, Board of Education President Laurie Kowalsky and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni.

"As we officially cut the ribbon today, let us look forward to the future with optimism and excitement," Dr. Ianni said, "Let us continue to work together to build the best school and school community in the nation. Thank you, all of you, for being part of this momentous occasion."

With the support of district administrators beside them, Mrs. Kowalsky and Dr. Ianni cut the ribbon, officially marking the opening of the field which the district hopes will be enjoyed for generations to come.



# YOUNG POETS OF ROOSEVELT

Classrooms at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School were recently transformed into poetry cafes as second graders hosted special writing celebrations. Family and friends were invited to the school during the event held in each class to watch as students presented their own poems.

The celebrations were a culmination of the second graders' poetry unit. About a month ago, students explored how to use their imaginations to write. They also learned different ways to write poetry by using metaphors, similes and onomatopoeia. The students had fun sharing their poems with their special guests.



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