



# Observer

NOVEMBER 2023

## Balloons Over Roosevelt

Second graders from Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School held their annual Balloons Over Roosevelt Parade on Nov. 21. The parade served as a culmination to the STEAM project the classes had been working on and was the perfect way to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Leading up to the event, second grade classes read "Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade" by Melissa Sweet. Through the book, the students learned the true story of puppeteer Tony Sarg and how he made the first parade balloons for the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The second graders then chose an animal to research and were challenged to design their own balloons. They worked in groups to plan, select materials and construct their creations. The students also created posters with fun facts about their animal.

On the day of the parade, Theodore Roosevelt pre-K, kindergarten and first grade students, staff members and administrators gathered outside the school to serve as spectators as the second graders proudly showcased their creations and paraded around the school's field.



## Vernon Students Present Disney's 'Finding Nemo Jr.'

Students from James H. Vernon School took the stage on Nov. 17 and 18 for their musical production of "Finding Nemo Jr." The production featured 94 student actors, 24 fifth and sixth grade crew members, and 23 third and fourth grade crew members.

The students were led by director and choreographer Teriann Chiappardi, assistant director Virginia Kemp, music director Louis Costidis and stage crew adviser Alexandria Muller. Director of Fine, Performing and Media Arts Erica Giglio Pac served as the show's producer, while Oyster Bay High School teacher Alex Dollin was responsible for lighting and sound design.

This year's production included new and exciting enhancements to help bring the students' underwater adventure to life. For the first time in the district, the team utilized digital production scenery and created large puppets to accompany the actors who played the main characters.

The cast entertained audience members with numbers such as "Big Blue World," "Go With the Flow" and "Just Keep Swimming" as they performed with their colorful puppets, props and costumes on stage. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew on a successful musical production!



## Field of Honor Ceremony

In honor of Veterans Day, Oyster Bay High School hosted its eighth annual Field of Honor Ceremony on Nov. 14. The special event was held on the front lawn of the high school where American flags were displayed and local veterans from the American Legion and AMVETS were honored.

The ceremony was coordinated by Oyster Bay High School Assistant Principal John Pardue and Interact Club adviser Anthony Caputo. Oyster Bay High School band members, under the direction of Matthew Sisia, performed the national anthem during the ceremony, while students and staff heard from Principal Melissa Argaman, Assistant Principal Mr. Pardue, Mr. Caputo, Interact Club President Sierra Nesis, Assistant Principal Robert LoCastro and veteran Ben Rodriguez.

Toward the end of the ceremony, everyone participated in a moment of silence. Ms. Argaman placed a red, white and blue veterans wreath by the flags and 9/11 Memorial to serve as a reminder to the public to remember all the veterans and heroes.



# New Honor Society Members Inducted



Oyster Bay High School celebrated its newest Tri-M Music Honor Society and National Art Honor Society members on Nov. 13 in the high school's library. Each honor society welcomed seven new members into their organization during the ceremony. Tri-M Music and Art Honor Society inductees recited their respective society's pledge and received a certificate. Congratulations to the following new members:

**Tri-M Music Honor Society:** Alex Arnedos, Mia Bencal, Moise Bradley, Sarah Castillo, Omar Figueroa, Michael Lewis and Jocelyn Schadler.

**National Art Honor Society:** Katarina Dynda, Alexa Laurencon, Julia Milos, Madison Morley, Jane Myers, Alexa Paradiso and Emalyn Zeller.

## District Hosts First Parent University

The district hosted its first Parent University on Nov. 8 at Oyster Bay High School. Parents and guardians from throughout the community attended the event and participated in engaging workshops to support their child both in and out of the classroom.

Attendees could select up to two workshops to attend during the two-hour event. They could choose from Helping Children Manage Stress and Anxiety, Introduction to RULER: Social-Emotional Learning in the Elementary Schools, and Responsible Use of Social Media. The sessions were created based on a district survey that pinpointed which topics interested parents the most.

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School teachers Kristina Kolb and Penny Koinis led the Introduction to RULER workshop. They discussed what the RULER approach is, how it is used in school, why social-emotional learning is important and how to implement the RULER program at home. Oyster Bay High School social workers Matthew Brown and Migdalia Rosario provided parents and guardians with the tools they need to help their child manage stress and anxiety. The final workshop was led by police officers and detectives



from the Nassau County Police Department. They spoke with parents about the dangers of social media, how to protect children and more. A second Parent University will be held in the spring.



## STORYBOOK PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Students from James H. Vernon School unleashed their creativity during the school's sixth annual storybook pumpkin decorating contest. The contest, which celebrated both literature and fall, was run by school librarian Erin Dubon and media specialist Elizabeth McGee.

Students were encouraged to pick their favorite storybook character and decorate a plastic or foam pumpkin to represent it. They were also encouraged to bring in a picture of the book cover to accompany their pumpkin. Once all the pumpkins were submitted, they were displayed in the school's main hall showcase which transformed into a storybook pumpkin patch. The student body then voted on their favorite pumpkin. Congratulations to the following students on their winning creations:

**First place:** Lilly Khan, sixth grade, Up pumpkin

**Second place:** Julianna Roubian, fourth grade, Snoopy pumpkin

**Third place:** Madeleine Petrara, third grade, Despicable Me pumpkin