



# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## Best Communities FOR MUSIC EDUCATION AWARD

For the sixth year in a row, Hicksville Public Schools was honored with the Best Communities for Music Education Award from the NAMM Foundation. The NAMM Foundation recognizes communities for outstanding efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders for making music part of a well-rounded education.

“We are incredibly proud of the

work of our music teachers and music students,” said Supervisor of Fine Arts Chad Wyman. “This year has been challenging for so many reasons, and to receive this recognition is a highlight for all involved. It is particularly special because this recognizes our entire community. Great music programs don’t happen accidentally; it takes a team of teachers, students and families.



Congratulations to all!”

To qualify for the designation, the district answered questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.

## Capital Improvements UPDATE

As part of its Bond referendum approved by voters in November 2017, the district has been under construction in phases over the last two years. We thank our community for supporting the Bond and are proud of the work being completed. Here, we want to share some of the latest progress with you:

- The pool is scheduled to be completed by June.
- The three libraries at East, Lee and Woodland are nearing completion.
- New windows at East are being installed and in the final phase of completion.

In addition, the district opened a bid on March 9 for work to be done this summer, including:

- The Music Suite at the High School (Bond).
- Exterior Lighting - 4th Street Parking Lot at the Middle School (2017-18 Approved Capital Reserve Expenditure).
- HS Parking Lot (2019-20 Approved Capital Reserve Expenditure).
- Continuation of HVAC Upgrades (2019-20 Approved Capital Reserve Expenditure).
- HS Roof Replacement over the gym hallway/weight room /boys locker room (2017-18 Approved Capital Reserve Expenditure).



# CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY *Through Service*



## Birthday Wishes – High School Robotics Team

The High School J-Birds Robotics Team collected items to fill goodie bags for the organization Birthday Wishes. Birthday Wishes works with homeless shelters across New York to help children celebrate their birthdays despite the circumstances their families are facing. Our J-Birds members came up with the idea to collect small toys, pencils, stickers, balls and other items from students, staff and community members. They were able to make 276 gift bags to help make birthdays a little brighter for children in homeless shelters. Pictured here are sisters and members of the J-Birds Robotics Team Sarah and Stephanie Gabriel. They followed all COVID-19 protocols while putting the goodie bags together and making the delivery to the organization.

## Smart911 – High School FBLA

Members of the Future Business Leaders of America Club at the High School are helping local senior citizens register for Smart911, a free public safety service offered by the Nassau County Police Department. Smart911 allows Nassau County residents to create a digital profile including their name, address, medical information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. This way, if there is an emergency where a registered person needs to call 9-1-1, dispatchers and first responders have a quick and easy way to access potentially life-saving information. Hicksville students are virtually volunteering to sign up residents. They also have weekly meetings with Oyster Bay Town Councilwoman Vicki Walsh via Zoom to assist in the efforts.



## Chalk the Walk – Districtwide

Starting in February and running into March, our students participated in a districtwide kindness challenge. Kindergarten through 12th grade students were tasked with practicing kindness at home, in school and throughout the community over a three-week period. They tracked their acts of kindness on a card, which was then used as an entry ticket to the culminating event, "Chalk the Walk with Kindness."

Students and their families gathered at the Broadway Commons Mall on Sunday, March 7. They were assigned parking spaces to draw a chalk creation centered around the theme of kindness. As part of the challenge, students wrote thank-you cards that were presented to first responders and PSEG workers at the event. Fork Lane students are pictured here.

## Health Care Heroes Thank-You Cards – High School FBLA

Members of the Future Business Leaders of America Club participated in the Town of Oyster Bay Healthcare Hero Recognition program. High School students wrote thank-you notes to local health care heroes who have helped battle COVID-19 at hospitals, health care centers and nursing homes over the past year. The thank-you cards were distributed to the front-line workers during National Public Health Week in April.



## Woodland Food Drive

Woodland Elementary School and its PTA held a food drive for three weeks to help local families in need. The school collected nonperishable food items and personal hygiene donations for the St. Ignatius Loyola Human Services Center. Woodland donated 18 boxes and four bags of food and products! Each student who made a donation wrote their name on a snowflake to fill "kindness snow globes" located on a bulletin board in the school. Pictured here is Woodland fifth grader Isabella Gandolfi, who went above and beyond to donate an item on the list for every single day of the drive!



## Pen Pals With Senior Citizens

Members of the High School Key Club have become pen pals with senior citizens from The Arbors Assisted Living located in Jericho. Students and residents are writing letters back and forth. The goal of the program is to form a connection and to brighten the days of the seniors in our community. It also provides the senior residents with a contact if they are feeling lonely or isolated.



## The Book Fairies Collection – Middle School NJHS and High School NHS

Members of the National Junior Honor Society at the Middle School and members of the National Honor Society at the High School sponsored book collections to support The Book Fairies. The Book Fairies distribute reading materials for all ages to schools, organizations and communities across Long Island who are in need of literature. The NJHS filled 46 boxes of books and the NHS filled 84 boxes, thanks to donations from students, staff and families!



## Lee Avenue Sneaker Drive

Lee Avenue Elementary School collected old pairs of sneakers to benefit the community, the school's PTA and the environment. Students and staff dropped off sneakers in any condition to a drop box at the school. Through the organization GotSneakers, the shoes will be recycled and repurposed. GotSneakers recirculates footwear to people who are in need or to companies who will repurpose them into new surfaces, including playgrounds and tracks. This way, the materials the sneakers are made from will not sit in landfills for years to come. The Lee Avenue PTA also earned money for each pair that was donated!



THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Administration Building  
200 Division Avenue  
Hicksville, NY 11801

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The district has launched a new mobile app, available on the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app features push notifications, directory and contact information, calendars, lunch menus and information on late buses, extra help and more – all at your fingertips.

# ALUMNI *Spotlight*

## ANYA MARQUARDT

### *Hicksville High School Class of 2019*

My name is Anya Marquardt and I am a graduate of the Class of 2019! I am a sophomore at Stony Brook University, majoring in secondary English education with a minor in journalism. Over my past two years at SBU, I have become involved in a plethora of different events and clubs on campus.

Since my first semester at SBU, I have been involved in my residence hall's Hall Council. I served as my building's secretary in my freshman year and became the president of my building's council this year. Hall Council has given me the opportunity to plan fun events for the residents of my building, from movie nights to arts and crafts and even a live-action "Among Us" night!

I am also an Undergraduate Fellow at SBU. As an Undergraduate Fellow, I assist in teaching the Introduction to Stony Brook course for first-semester

freshman students. I am the secretary of Alpha Nu Zeta, SBU's English Honor Society. We do fun events for our members and charity work with multiple different organizations, including local nursing homes.

I work as an Orientation Leader over the summer, in which I offer individual support to all incoming first-years and transfer students. I assist in running workshops to provide important information about SBU, and I run icebreaker sessions to help students meet new people on campus.

Hicksville High School definitely impacted my future career path. My teachers inspired me to follow the high school education path because of the kindness and consideration



that they showed toward their students. Hicksville gave me so many opportunities to learn and explore my potential career fields, and I am so grateful for all it's done for me!