Hello High School East Community,

Happy New Year everyone! We are almost halfway through the school year. Our students have been working hard in their classes and are preparing to take midterm exams. I encourage all of our students to keep putting forth your best effort and put in the extra time needed to do well on your exams. Our teachers and other school employees have been putting forth unwavering effort to help the students achieve at the highest level. It is no secret why HS East is among the top high schools in the nation. Our students have the ability, desire and support necessary to be successful. As always, I thank the parents, the Central Office administration, and the Board of Education for creating the optimal working conditions for the staff at HS East to be able to do a phenomenal job. Outstanding student accomplishments continue to be the results of our total community effort.

In this issue you will see that in addition to excelling academically our students have been very active in extracurricular activities, athletics and community service. Just prior to the holidays a number of clubs engaged in charitable endeavors to make the season a bit brighter for others. Fall sports teams had a number of highlights and winter teams are competing hard as well. The activities and programs offered in our district allow our students to have a well rounded experience and are all a part of what makes this place great.

I am also happy to report that our school vision, which we began working on last year, is ready to be shared publicly. Students, parents and school staff contributed many ideas and thoughts about what our school should be. The resulting vision statement is our view of what we will continuously work toward in our school community.

**HIGH SCHOOL EAST VISION STATEMENT**

Our school community is a collaborative and positive environment in which we take pride. We strive to ensure that there is equity and opportunities for all.

Our students are inspired to achieve academic EXCELLENCE by our professional, committed staff. We cultivate an environment of student-centered, relevant, lifelong learning.

We expect our students to display strong character encompassing leadership, RESPONSIBILITY and RESPECT for others as they prepare to be productive citizens in our global society.

We believe these ideals contribute to our students maximizing their full potential.

J.A. Woodberry
Principal
History Comes Alive through Art

Students in Ms. Uttendorfer’s AP Art History class teamed up with students in Ms. Toneatti’s Honors Global History II classes to experience the work of a museum curator. Their task was to create a “Belief Systems of the World” display within a museum. Students worked collaboratively to design a two dimensional drawing or collage, a relief symbol or a three dimensional place of worship. Along with their art pieces, students demonstrated their knowledge of their designated belief system through an accompanying poem, speech, song or play.

In their presentations, students also discussed important facts about their designated religion and compared it to other world religions so that museum visitors would be well informed.

Students claimed that using their imagination and artistic skills made this project a fun way to learn about History.

- for more photos see the Media Gallery on the HS East website.

Reporters at Large

When they registered for Ms. Burnett’s Creative Writing course, Noah Sosnick and Jasmine Weber had no idea they were soon to be investigative reporters. After submitting samples of their writing to The Long Islander newspaper for a student internship, they were called for an interview at the newspaper’s office and landed the jobs. They go twice a week and even have their own desks. Noah says the best thing about it is that everyone there treats them like real reporters, not interns. Jasmine is happy to gain experience for a possible photo journalism career.

The two students always have a story in the works. Both Jasmine and Noah claim they have already written so many articles, it’s hard to remember them all. Recently, Jasmine covered the whooping cough epidemic as well as an art gallery. Noah wrote about a music store in the “Business Spotlight” and rendered a New Year’s Eve preview. Both students say it has been a valuable experience and a great resume booster. They will continue working at The Long Islander as long as possible.
Students in Principles of Engineering have been challenged to complete a variety of projects, including cardboard chairs, catapults, and mousetrap cars. Teachers Laura McGuire and Steve Wilson coach as students take the lead in imagining, designing and developing.

The cardboard chair project required the students to research and create a prototype of a chair constructed completely out of cardboard. The chair needed to be able to be reassembled in under fifteen minutes, hold a minimum of 200 pounds, and use nothing but the five sheets of cardboard provided.

For the catapult challenge, students designed an accurate catapult that could essentially be a "children's toy" kit. They used the ideas of levers and torque to create a catapult out of Popsicle sticks, hot glue and rubber bands that could project an object (a Superball) into a target 1.5 meters away. The students then had to create a step-by-step guide that a child would be able to follow in order to replicate the design. The students then competed to see whose catapult was the most accurate and could get the most number of objects into the target.

Using the same ideas of levers and torque, students created mousetrap cars. They had to submit design plans as well as request materials. The objective was to create a mousetrap that would push a cup into a goal exactly three meters away. They were then scored on the number of successful runs as well as the time it took the car to reach the goal.

Students are currently working on a project in which they will design an apparatus out of nothing more than straws, tape and glue, that will protect an egg from breaking after slamming into a wall. The safety device will be placed into a cart that will then be rolled down a steep incline into a wall. They will use ideas of impulse and momentum to protect their egg.

On any given day, one can stop into the Principles of Engineering class and watch these young engineers busily collaborating on their next project. For the future, students will focus on robotics and circuits.

- Thank you to Laura McGuire for this article
- View some fun videos on the Media Gallery!
Learning Extends Beyond the School Day

Mighty Mathletes Make Magnificent Marks

Senior Adam Needelman and juniors Kris Pang, Tammy Jin, and Alex Giris: what do these kids have in common? since ninth grade, they have attended the annual Suffolk County Math Tournament, and every time, they have been on a top scoring team. A snow storm prevented the team from attending in 2011, but that didn’t stop our kids from returning as strong as ever this year.

Adam has had three consecutive team wins while the juniors have two consecutive team wins each. While the team has won third place in their division the last two times they participated in the tournament, Tammy Jin has made a mark by moving from fifth place position in the individual round at the ninth grade level to second place in the eleventh grade level. She holds the top position among our female participants and hopes to see more female participation in our school at the top math competitions.

As the Mathletes team has evolved and several of our top players move on to college, they make room for new stars. In addition to being on this year’s top scoring team at the Suffolk Math Tournament, Shreyas Havaldar is also our only student with three consecutive perfect scores in the Suffolk Math League. As of the third meet, he is in a twelve-way tie with other students throughout Suffolk County. Kris Pang follows Shreyas as our second highest scorer in this league and is in an eleven-way tie for the third highest score in the league with only two questions out of eighteen answered incorrectly. Alex Giris, Adam Needelman, and Brian Levy are also among the league’s top scorers county-wide with a score of fourteen out of eighteen. As a school, we are ranked sixth in the league and first in our division.

The students get together to participate in state and national math leagues as well. In the New York Math League, they currently rank fourth among the 16 participating Suffolk County schools. In the northeast region of the United States, we have had several top scorers listed throughout the year at www.mandelbrot.org including Alex Giris, Brian Levy, Akash Wasil, Alex Pae, Matt Klinger, and Eric Dang.

Congratulations to all our club members for continuing to dedicate their time and efforts to make us a strong team!

- Special thanks to Math teacher and Mathletes advisor Rose Suarez for her contribution to this article
Honors in Research and Business

Superior Research

The Siemens Foundation selected Aneesh Shah as a Regional Finalist in the 2011 Siemens competition in Math, Science and Technology. Due to the superior quality of work such as Aneesh’s, the Siemens Competition has become one of the most challenging and prestigious research-based high school science contest in the country.

The Intel Talent Search is America’s oldest and also one of the most prestigious science talent competitions, and this year we are proud to announce that Hannah Kenagy is a semi-finalist. Her photo and more detail is coming soon on our website.

DECA and FBLA Students Shine in Local Business Competitions

On November 30th, HS East students of Future Business Leaders of America (See photo in Awards and Honors on the website) participated in the Young Professionals Chamber of Commerce Ninth Annual Business Leadership Competition at Farmingdale State College. Our students were among over 300 students from fourteen high schools and took first and second place titles in several categories! In first place was Jeff Cherkin in Sports Marketing, Aneesh Shah and Cody Miecnikowski in Hospitality Services, Eric Gesuale and Areeta Shah in Entrepreneurship, Jake Sonenblum and Jared Silverberg in Advertising, and Drew Greenberg and Jordan O’Donnell in Sales Demonstration. In second place was Spencer Hagler in Sports Management and Eric Steinberg in Job Interview. Congratulations to all the students involved.

Every year National DECA holds their annual Suffolk County Regional Competition, where business students from high schools across Suffolk County compete in a variety of business categories. The Hills East DECA team (featured right) has always done well in the annual tournament and this year was no exception. The team had 37 Suffolk county regional winners, and seven students who received honorable mention in a variety of business categories. It truly was a great job by all participants involved, and it is fantastic to see all of our business students apply their knowledge! First place winners were Eli Schwartz, Adam Needelman and Aneesh Shah. Second place winners were Madison Marisi, Matt Henry, Jeff Cherkin and Ted Goshman. Third place winners were George Bekheet, Jeremy Schnapp, Ron Qiao and Alex Pae. Top ten winners were Schuyler Berland, Ian Heller, Adam Friedman, Spencer Hagler, Matt Diamond, Bret Bierman, Lauren Aronson, Jenna Ferranti, Michael Ferranti and Corey Needle. Congratulations to all the students and advisor Joe Cappiello.
Clubs Spread Holiday Cheer

Club advisors and members once again helped local charitable organizations spread holiday cheer to families and children in our local communities. The National Honor Society conducted their annual Toy Drive for Toys for Tots with the help of the Varsity Club (see photo below). HS East also donated $250.00 to HHH Helping Our Own for the district food drive and members of the Varsity Club were on hand again to assist with the packaging of food for families in need. The HS East Concert Choir did their annual gift drive for the residents of the Carillon Nursing Home in Huntington. SADD supported the Freshman Class in their Island Harvest coin drive by donating $200. Physics teacher Mr. Grunbeck and his students class rolled various sized cans of food for learning and charity. The cans were donated to St. Hugh’s Parish Outreach Program Food Bank. The Business Honor Society held a food drive for the Melville Fire Department. Photos and article of the event can be viewed on the Half Hollow Hills Patch. The Architecture Club “elves” constructed four knock hockey tables and donated them to local facilities that service children in need. Two of the tables went to a Boys & Girls club in Huntington and the other two were donated to the Timothy Hill Children’s Ranch, an all boys orphanage in Riverhead, NY.

Students from our performing clubs and activities: Cheerleaders, Kickline, Jazz Band, Half Tones, and Expressive Movement, among others brought joy to the hearts of the students of the James E. Allen school.

Remember the men of “Mo-vember”? Male members of the HS East staff grew mustaches throughout the month of November and raised over $2,000 for prostate cancer research.

There were many more (too numerous to mention) charitable events. Thank you to all clubs that brought smiles to those in need!
Art Installation 2012: Another Brick in the Wall

Each year the Advanced Placement Art History class creates a school-wide installation. This year, they decided to base their installation on social media and its boundaries or lack there of. The class was inspired by the artist Richard Serra. In 1981, he created Tilted Arc, a curving wall of raw steel, 120 feet long and 12 feet high, that obstructed the entry walkway of the NY Federal Plaza in half. Those working in the surrounding buildings had to circumvent its enormous bulk as they walked through the plaza. According to Serra, "The viewer becomes aware of himself and of his movement through the plaza. As he moves, the sculpture changes. Contraction and expansion of the sculpture result from the viewer's movement. Step by step, the perception not only of the sculpture but of the entire environment changes."

With this model in mind, the AP Art History class constructed a giant wall made from cardboard boxes, a symbolic structure meant to raise awareness of what we post on social media sites. As viewers see this enormous 'wall', they will immediately make a connection to posting on a virtual wall. The wall is double sided. One side represents communication amongst people, sometimes without revealing their identity, in shades of blue. The other side is a rendering of a brick wall composed of relief portraits in shades of red. This side represents the unity and anonymity of the people using these social media sites. Overall, the wall has an imposing impact on those walking near it in the school. Even though the wall seems large scale, it is small in comparison to the unlimited size of the internet.

The structure is located outside the West Gym, similar in location to last year's installation, There's No Place Like Home. Students and faculty have to walk around the wall and interact with it in some way. There is also an authentic interactive component to the installation. Students can make a 'post' with post-it notes on one side. If they don't want people to see their message, they can insert it into a slot on the side of the wall, thereby inviting everyone to contribute a message. Only appropriate messages will be on display, others go inside the wall.

We hope for this installation to make students think about how they interact with others on all social media websites in general. Postings can impact a student's future for prospective jobs or colleges and we want students to be smart and realize that what they write is truly visible for all to see. Hopefully, this installation will positively affect the students of Hills East and make them think about social media and the effects it has on our generation.

- Special thanks to Allyson Uttendorfer for this article
- See the media gallery for more photos!
Honors and Victories in Athletics

**Sportsmanship Honors**

During the month of November, numerous awards and honors were bestowed upon our Hills East sports teams and athletes. All spring and fall sports teams received the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award. Additionally, NYSPHSAA recognized several fall teams for their exemplary sportsmanship: varsity boys' golf, varsity boys' cross country, junior varsity girls' tennis and varsity girls' swimming. Finally, three girls' tennis athletes: Ludmilla Yamus, who advanced to the Quarter final round in singles, Amanda Luper, and Allison Huber (featured right), received commendations on their sportsmanship at the State Championships by the director of Physical Education and Athletics of Copiague School District.

We are proud of our accomplished athletes and thank the coaches and parents who help to build and support our teams.

**Awards and Scholarships**

There was exciting news for three of our college bound scholar athletes. Jake Freeman accepted a scholarship with Harvard to play soccer, Jessika Kagan will attend La Salle with a soccer scholarship, and Brandon Beckhardt signed with Stanford for a gymnastics scholarship. Throughout their four years at HS East these three students have epitomized the ideals of respect, responsibility and excellence. We wish them well as they continue their success.

The Suffolk Zone Award for Physical Education Leadership went to Jessy Garcia and Sabrina Woods this year. See their photo and more in Awards and Honors on the website.

**Recognition for Track, Fencing and Kickline**

A recent victory goes to the girls of Track for the Millrose Trials at the Armory on Tuesday, January 10th. The girls of the 4x400m relay team: Christina Perrier, Tivoni Taylor, Tiffany Perrier and Nicole Jablon, combined to run a new school record of 4:11:54! Congratulations to the girls and their coaches Laura Anderson and Brian Strack. Their commitment to excellence is second to none!

The Fencing team, under the expertise of coaches Dennis Daly and Kevin Gordon, continues to grow, proving to be a formidable sport here at East. Just recently, in Boys Fencing, Sam Gochman won the meet-clinching bout to lead HHH (3-3) in Suffolk. In Girls Fencing, Sarah Im won the meet-clinching bout to lead HHH (6-1) in Suffolk.

The Dixettes, with coach Alessandra Espposito, enjoyed success at the LIKA Competition this past weekend. They took second place out of eight for High Kick, and third place out of nine in Pom. They have been working hard and are now looking forward to a possible qualification for Championships in March.