

## Looking Back Before Moving Forward *OHS' Valedictorian, Matthew DiStefano*



**A**t 18 years old, Matthew DiStefano, the OHS Class of 2016 Valedictorian, has racked up enough accomplishments for several lifetimes. Yet he remains humble and focused on how he can help others. Matthew was surprised to learn he was valedictorian, reasoning that it could easily have been any of his friends.

"I don't like being the center of attention all too much. So in that way, I'm sort of reserved about it," he said. "But it's definitely exciting and my parents are happy."

A serious student who had yet to find his niche socially when he entered OHS, Matthew was pleasantly surprised to find how accepting high school can be.

"I saw kids playing instruments in the hall. Some had funky dyed hair. I think a lot of people are finding themselves in high school," he said.

Matthew realized that he could experiment and so he tried robotics, soccer and European handball before finding the World Interest Club (WIC), where he remained active for all four years of high school and served as president this past year.

"Almost growing up in the club teaches you about responsibility and what managing people would be like," he said.

Matthew is headed to Cornell University in the fall, where he plans to major in mechanical engineering and is considering a minor in history. He doesn't see his future self as strictly an engineer, though, and hopes to use his skills in international relations or humanitarian efforts. His involvement with WIC has helped him see the importance of better cooperation between nations.

*continued on page 2*

# Stephen Picillo, Class of 2016 Salutatorian



**S**teven Picillo, Class of 2016 Salutatorian at SOHS, is a motivated and determined student who maintains a 104.279-weighted average and has earned awards and honors across multiple academic disciplines.

“Steven is a brilliant math student who uses his intuitiveness and his intelligence to help others,” said his math teacher, Laurie Spector.

Steven excels in all areas, and yearns to study medicine.

“One day I want to save someone’s life,” he said.

## **Valedictorian** *continued from page 1*

With a 105.5 GPA, numerous awards and AP classes to his credit, Matthew said that academics came more easily to him than navigating the social scene. His advice to incoming freshmen:

“Don’t be afraid to try new things. I know it’s easier said than done. It takes courage. But once you take one risk it’s easier to take others.” He suggests not only joining clubs but also taking a chance by reaching out to potential new friends and challenging oneself academically, too.

He researches cancer at Mount Sinai Medical Center and has been recognized at the New York Science and Engineering Fair for his work. He was enrolled in five Advanced Placement classes during his senior year, has been inducted into the World Language Honor Society and also is a member of the National Honor Society.

Steven takes his commitment and energy beyond the classroom. He has been a dedicated member of Key Club, where he volunteers at local fun runs, soup kitchens and charity events. Steven is also a member of the World Interest Club that competes in Model United Nations conferences. He hopes to continue Model UN in college.

“Being part of the Model United Nations team will allow me to further expand my understanding of the world and interact with people from across the world,” he explained.

Steven has also been a member of the Mathletes for four years, a club that participates in international mathematics competitions.

“Physics C is ridiculously difficult but everyone knows it, so you’re all in it together,” he said. “World Interest Club was the same way. When you struggle together it’s a better result.”

Matthew had kind words for all of his teachers but one stood out. Mr. Pittman, his middle school science teacher, inspired Matthew’s developing interest in world affairs and was a friend to him during an awkward phase of his life. “He very much steered me in the right direction,” said Matthew.

# Standing Up to Hate at OMS

Oceanside Middle School kicked off a *No Place for Hate* campaign through the Anti-Defamation League and took a pledge in honor of Holocaust Remembrance which was observed locally on May 19.

The students watched video of Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day in English and Social Studies classes and held discussions prior to signing their pledges. Early on the morning of May 20, students signed pledges to stand up to hate and were escorted silently, single-file, into the hallways. As several hundred students on each floor of the school lined the halls holding their signs, the loudspeaker played the Michael Jackson song *Man In The Mirror*.

*"I'm starting with the man in the mirror, I'm asking him to change his ways....If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make the change."*

FIOS1 News was there to document the events and asked OMS Principal Dr. Allison Glickman-Rogers whether grand gestures such as this campaign can truly make a difference.

"Absolutely!" she replied. "Any time you can tap into a child's emotions, that is the glue that makes the lesson stick."

Before returning to their classrooms, students taped their signed pledges to the walls where they will remain on display. Follow-up efforts will involve working with the ADL to administer a survey to students, staff and parents to assess the school climate. The results will be used to



drive curriculum and activities for next year to build on strengths and shore up weaknesses.

*"We want our middle school to be an inclusive school community where all students feel safe and accepted," Dr. Glickman-Rogers said, "and we want students to take these lessons with them all of their lives."*





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## **“Be A Hero, Be An Upstander” Students Focus on Issues at Sixth Grade Conference Day**



**S**chool #2 hosted its 31st Sixth Grade Conference Day at Hofstra University last month. Students from each of Oceanside's elementary schools attended along with peers from other Long Island school districts.

The topics were Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking, Creating an “Upstanding Community,” Bullying and Cyberbullying and Careers. Both the theme of the day (Be A Hero, Be An Upstander) and the topics reflected the concerns of students, as selected by School #2's student council with feedback from peers and teachers

The student council representatives pictured at left include Juliana Febrizio, Treasurer, Kimberly Polacco, Vice President, Michael Mecca President and Anthony Verdino, Secretary.

## **School #8 Beautifies Grounds on Visitor's Day**

**W**orking together is what school communities are all about. When School #8 hosted its Visitors Day last month, students, their parents, teachers and some grandparents, too, came together to add a little pizzazz to School #8's grounds with bulbs and other flowering plants. Nobody seemed to mind getting their hands dirty....all in a day's work!



## Robert Fenter Heading to Cold Spring Harbor



**R**obert Fenter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Research, was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Cold Spring Harbor effective July 1. Mr. Fenter's career in Oceanside spans nearly 30 years, beginning with his years in the classroom as a social studies teacher. Later he was a social studies supervisor and assistant principal at Oceanside Middle School and then served as principal from 2001-2009, before heading to the District Office.

Mr. Fenter said that the singular focus on curriculum is something he will miss but he is excited about the opportunity to oversee all aspects of a school district. With his experience in managing the introduction of one-to-one tech devices, Mr. Fenter looks forward to helping CSHD as it begins its own mobile device rollout.

Known for his warmth, Mr. Fenter unsurprisingly said that what he will miss most about the Oceanside School District is the people. "Our schools are an extension of a tight-knit community where people take care of one another. It's an amazing place."

## Diane Provvido Appointed Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Research and Instruction



**D**iane Provvido, Principal of School #5, has been named Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Research, replacing Robert Fenter who is leaving to run the Cold Spring Harbor School District. Mrs. Provvido will assume her new role on July 1.

"I know you will join me in congratulating Ms. Provvido while simultaneously wishing Mr. Fenter the very best as he begins his new role as Superintendent of the Cold Spring Harbor School District," said Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington, Superintendent of Schools, in making the announcement.

"I'm both honored and very humbled to have been selected for this position. I'm looking forward to everything it encompasses," said Mrs. Provvido. "I am excited by the opportunity to continue to cultivate the fine learning community that Oceanside is known for, one that rewards curiosity, encourages problem-solving and fosters discovery of

talents and interests. Nurturing a love of literacy and the written word is a passion and one that will shape what I bring to my new role," she added.



Oceanside Public Schools  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES  
594-2336

**JUNE  
2016**

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER

◆ Pre-K through Middle School ◆



## SUMMER PLAYGROUND

Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR ANOTHER FUN-FILLED SUMMER!

Playground will operate during the following hours

Grades 1-6  
Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 2:00pm



Grades 7-8  
Monday - Friday  
8:45am - 1:45pm

Early Childhood  
5 yr olds 9:15am-1:45pm Mon - Fri  
4 yr olds 9:15am-12:15pm Mon - Fri  
3 yr olds 9:30am-12:00pm Tues, Wed, Thurs.

Extended Playground  
Gr. K-6 Mon - Fri  
8:00am-4:00pm  
or  
8:00am-6:00pm

## KIWANIS FISHING TRIP

The "Captain Pete" out of Freeport

Trip goes rain or shine  
Tues, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM - 1:15PM  
Boys & Girls, 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. & UP!  
FEE.....\$25



(INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION & EQUIPMENT)

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**

- There will be a licensed crew aboard
- Boat sails at 9:00am and returns at 1:00pm
- Bus leaves School #6 at 8:00am, returns approx. 1:15pm
- Registration forms/permission slips will be available beginning Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at the DOCA office.
- **PERMISSION SLIPS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND TRIP!!**
- This is **NOT** a summer playground trip!!

## OCEANSIDE SUMMER EVENING ACTIVITIES

ON-LINE Registration begins Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> AT 7:00pm • Grades are as of September 2016



### MONDAYS

July 11-Aug. 8

#### Arts & Crafts • Gr. 2-4 • 5 Mondays

6:30-8:00pm • School #6, Room 207A • Fee: \$40

Instructor: Angelique Marino



#### "Kool" Cooking Class Gr. 4-6 • 5 Mondays

6:30-8:00pm • School #6 Kitchen • Fee: \$40

Instructor: AnneMarie Cozzi



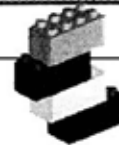
### WEDNESDAYS

July 13-Aug. 10

#### Bricks 4 Kidz • Gr. 1-6 • 5 Wednesdays

6:30-8:00pm • School #6, Room 203 • Fee: \$80

Summer fun with LEGOS®. Children will be divided into sections depending on interest and ability. Simple structures, machines or advanced robotics will be explored.



### TUESDAYS

July 12-Aug. 9

#### Sum R Little Feet • Gr. 2-6 • 5 Tuesdays

6:30-8:00pm • School #6 Merle Gym • Fee \$60

Children will learn all the skills needed to be on a track team from sprints, relays, jumping hurdles and more.

Let's get running!!

Instructor: Scott Dyer



### THURSDAYS

July 14 - Aug. 11

#### \*\*Open Skate Night • All Ages • 5 Thursdays

6:30-8:00pm • School #6 Merle Gym • Fee: \$40

\*\*Activity is non-instructional!

No Lessons Provided!

BRING YOUR OWN SKATES!



All classes are 30 minutes longer this year!!

**C.A.R.E.S.  
PROGRAM**

Forms and Information for the 2016-2017 C.A.R.E.S. program will be available soon!

Registration will begin on Monday, July 11, 2016.



# OMS Student to Host Charity Baseball Tournament

September 16-18



**J**eremy Feder, an OMS student who loves dogs and baseball and wants to help injured veterans, has created a Bar Mitzvah project that incorporates all of his passions. He and his family are hosting a Charity Baseball Tournament that will take place September 16-18 with proceeds to benefit American Vet Dogs. The tournament seeks to recruit baseball players ages 8 to 10 years old.

Based in Smithtown, American Vet Dogs is a not-for-profit organization that provides professionally trained service dogs to disabled American veterans.

Jeremy has a Facebook page dedicated to the tournament: <https://www.facebook.com/Jeremy-Feders-Charity-Baseball-Tournament-1183080455035785/>

## School #6 Revives the Art of Letter Writing

**S**chool #6 Kindergarten teacher Joan Klein took the the timeless art of writing letters, a sister city named Oceanside on the other side of the U.S. and 21st century technology that erases geographical boundaries to create a wonderful project for students: pen pals.

Ms. Klein's students corresponded several times with fellow kindergarteners in Oceanside, California where Ms. Klein's niece teaches at Stuart Mesa Elementary School. In April, the two classes met via videoconference, a huge thrill for all of the youngsters. They talked about the weather, their school gardens and pets and what they're learning about in science and Spanish.

The pen pals said goodbye for now in their final letters of the year, exchanging photographs and gifts. In the photo, right, the student standing is being introduced to his pen pal.



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## **School Calendar**

**Please note the following important dates when schools re-open:**

First Day of School for Students:	September 1
Middle School Back to School Night:	September 19
High School Back to School Night:	September 20
Elementary Back to School Night:	September 22
Kindergarten Back to School Night:	September 28
Castleton Back to School Night:	September 28
Pre-K Back to School Night:	October 6

School calendars will be mailed in August. If you have a child enrolled in school, you will receive a calendar. All others may stop by the District Office at 145 Merle Ave. to pick up a calendar or call 678-7525.

The full, final calendar will be on the website at [http://oceansideschools.org/district\\_news/index.htm](http://oceansideschools.org/district_news/index.htm) prior to mailing.

**School re-opens September 1. Have a safe and happy summer!!**