



# Freeport PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Pride*

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## POINTS OF PRIDE FEBRUARY 2018

- Freeport High School welcomed Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, for a special visit and discussion about raising awareness of the needs of those less fortunate and advocating for justice. Kennedy, an activist, lawyer and president of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, spoke to students, district staff and local officials about how the organization's Speak Truth to Power Symposium: The Effect of Human Rights Defenders Curriculum has moved along her father's crusade to change the world. Freeport is the first school district in Nassau County to have embraced the Speak Truth to Power program, which ties into the district's longstanding mission of global peace.
- Board of Education President Michael Pomerico has been selected as a recipient of the Nassau BOCES 2018 Education Partner Award for his outstanding contributions to public education in Nassau County. He is one of 15 individuals who will be honored at the 12th annual Education Partner Awards Gala on April 11.
- The Board of Education and central administration celebrated the work and commitment of 27 staff members celebrating their 20th anniversary. The honorees, recognized for their collective 540 years serving the Freeport schools, students and community, each received a plaque and district pin as tokens of appreciation for their dedication day in and day out.

### ACADEMICS

- Freeport High School hosted the district's fourth annual robotics tournament. Thirty-one teams from Nassau County participated, including seven teams from Freeport: four from Freeport High School, two from Dodd and one from Atkinson. The sixth-grade team from Atkinson won the Judges Award and advanced to the playoffs; based on their skills score, one of the two teams from Dodd placed fourth in the state among middle school teams; and two of the four high school teams advanced to the playoffs. In the qualifying matches, the Freeport High School team placed 11th, Atkinson placed 15th and Dodd placed 21st out of the 31 teams. This year was also the first that featured the United States Army Corps of Engineers' booth showcasing the robots that are used to defuse bombs.



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- As a kickoff to the opening of Freeport High School's Zen Zone, designed to promote mindfulness and help students increase self-awareness and decrease stress, the library hosted "The Stress-Free Student," a three-period workshop comprised of meditation and breathing techniques. The workshop was led by art teacher Lauren Levine and YES program instructor and school psychologist Elizabeth D'Aiello, both certified yoga instructors. The Zen Zone will be maintained and coordinated by library media specialists Rose Luna and Paula Ennis.
- Students from Freeport High School, Giblyn and New Visions met NASA mechanical engineer and Exceptional Achievement Medal awardee Kobie Boykins at the Cradle of Aviation Museum. Students engaged in Martian simulation activities, including using coordinates on a giant map of Mars to maneuver a mini Mars rover as part of the museum's Countdown to Apollo 50 celebration.
- Freeport High School students Arianna Ali, Nicole Bailey, Richard Bastien, Phoenix Boone, Jefferson Castellon, Michael Desir, Deshanti Dortch, Dillon Finch, Shyanne Gardner, Marcus Grizzell, Kevin Guerrero-Calderon, Genevieve Himmelber, Kristopher Jenkins, Ariana Louis-Jean, Kenny Martinez, Jaidiver Morales, Jayda Pollard, Jhon Sandoval and Jordyn Smith were named winners in the 2018 DECA Regional competition.
- Dodd hosted numerous colleges and universities at its annual Early College Awareness event, featuring guest speakers, presentations and virtual tours.
- Columbus kindergartners marked one of the first milestones of their academic careers by celebrating their 100th day of school with a variety of fun and educational activities related to the number 100.
- Giblyn kindergartners learned about the lifelong marriage of Q and U in words that contain a Q during the Q and U wedding event, an annual Valentine's Day tradition.
- Throughout the month, students at New Visions have been learning about the importance of compassion by performing and acknowledging acts of kindness; for each act of kindness performed, students have given and received paper hearts, which have been placed on a "Kindness Tree" at the school.

## **ATHLETICS**

- The Freeport High School varsity cheerleaders earned first place at the Oceanside High School competition, finishing with the highest score in their division in Nassau County for the season. The team qualified to compete for the national championship, where they placed 23rd out of 66 teams, their best result ever at the national level.



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- The Freeport High School varsity wrestling team earned first place at the county tournament qualifier – its third first-place finish in a tournament this season. Sixteen students qualified for the county championships, where the team placed third. Seven of those students placed: Chad Elder, Lee Mauras, Sebastian Mauras, Myles Norris, Frankie Paulino, Ikce Quiles-Wicasa and Donovan Watson. Lee Mauras qualified for the state wrestling championship.
- Freeport High School seniors Jason Peralta and Sebastian Buckeridge, and juniors Jordan Jackson, Jahmel Manor-Mendez and Kevon Smith, qualified for the indoor track state championship. At the county championship, Smith placed first in the 600-meter event and the 4 x 400-meter relay; Buckeridge placed third in the 600-meter event; Peralta placed third in the 1600-meter event; and the 4x4 relay team placed first.
- At the girls track indoor county championship, the Freeport High School 4 x 400-meter relay team placed first in the county. The relay team is comprised of junior Nakacee McNab, sophomores Lizbeth Marine and Alexandria Yarbrough, and freshman Enyero Omokeni.
- Freeport High School senior Erick Rivera qualified for the county swim championship in three events: 200-meter freestyle, 500-meter freestyle, and 100-meter fly.
- The Freeport High School girls basketball team finished the regular season in second place in conference AA-I with a conference record of 9-3 and qualified for the playoffs.

## **THE ARTS**

- Students from all eight schools came together at Freeport High School for the seventh annual celebration of Black History Month, a districtwide tradition. Groups of students from each school graced the stage to perform song or dance routines and showcased their artwork in the lobby.
- Dodd presented its rendition of “Aladdin Jr.,” which was co-directed by Vashti N. Burke and Sarafina DeLuca-Padilla, and starred Antonio Cruz, Ryan Francois, Kristi Johnson and Sarah Quintanilla in lead roles.
- Atkinson hosted its annual Multicultural Assembly, featuring cultural-themed performances by students.
- Students and staff at Freeport High School are preparing to host their rendition of “The Pajama Game,” which will be performed next month on March 23 and 24. Tickets are \$10 and all members of the district and community are encouraged to attend.



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## **ALTRUISM**

- Bayview fourth-grade classes honored police officers in the Village of Freeport with heartwarming cards, gifts and a spirited song and dance performance at the Adopt-a-Cop luncheon, an annual Valentine's Day tradition.