



Freeport PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Pride*

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POINTS OF PRIDE January 2016

ACADEMICS

- Freeport Public Schools became the first school district on Long Island to have its “Introducing Nanotechnology into the High School Curriculum” proposal approved by the Center of Functional Nanomaterials at Brookhaven National Laboratory.
- Freeport Public School District announced that it had been awarded more than \$20,000 from the Freeport Educational Foundation towards innovative programs and enrichment activities for students across its seven schools. The FEF grant program awarded the funds to 11 of the 16 submitted proposals, including Chromebooks for music education at Columbus Avenue, STEAM-related projects at New Visions and J.W. Dodd Middle School and the synthesis of gold nanoparticles at Freeport High School.
- The Freeport Stars of Today and Tomorrow Freeport Educational Foundation benefit concert raised more than \$20,000.
- Freeport High School welcomed hundreds of students from schools across Long Island for the annual Distributive Education Clubs of America Regional Competition. Several Freeport students placed: Melanie Escobar, Mealiendy Exantus, Jasmine Harrigan and Yumel Hernandez for Travel & Tourism; Santana Hernandez for Automotive Service; Javier Lechuga, Sadki Skeete, Katiana Thompson and Victoria Wright for Marketing Communication; Yasmin Marine and Wildelina Peralta for Sports and Entertainment; Jaidiver Morales and Abigail Peralta for Business Law & Ethics; Evelyn Rodriguez for Retail Merchandising; and Jewelle Trotman for Apparel & Accessories. They will compete at the state level in Rochester from March 9-11.
- Natasha Resias was selected as the recipient of New Visions’ MLK Peace Award, which recognizes annually one fourth-grade student for his or her contributions to peace and leadership. She was honored at the school’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, which also featured choral performances by students in all grade levels.
- English as a New Language students at Atkinson are learning and mastering Writer’s Workshop strategies. The students recently presented personal narratives and followed up by applying sentence starters for practicing and modeling positive feedback.
- Students at Freeport High School and Dodd celebrated the Hour of Code by participating in a variety of activities related to computer science and programming. Students Alyssa



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Cruz and Jaidiver Morales (sophomores at the high school), and Mason Bazemore, Justin Budhu, Gerard Horning, and Iysaiah Salome-Diaz and Valeria Ventura (eighth-graders at the middle school) presented lessons to their peers about computer programming using C#.

- Approximately 30 third- and fourth-graders at New Visions demonstrated their fluency in mathematics by using “mental math” to add, subtract, multiply and divide in the school’s Math Bee.
- As part of the district’s new writing initiative, third- and fourth-graders at New Visions celebrated the publishing of books they wrote with separate parties. The students, who wrote about “small moments,” presented their stories at the event.
- Classes at Atkinson have been grouped in teams and named after one of the eight Ivy League colleges: Princeton, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, Brown, Columbia, Cornell and Dartmouth. Students are learning how to become future leaders, in addition to establishing high expectations of themselves while knowing they have supportive teachers who believe in their success.
- Demonstrating their knowledge of the novel “Esperanza Rising,” Atkinson students created and acted out the Unit 3 Module Performance Task beautifully and intelligently. They incorporated 21st century skills and their own musical talents to display their knowledge and show connections to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the culminating activity for the module.
- Domenica Gianferrara won Archer Street’s Spelling Bee and will continue on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee against winners from other schools in March at Hofstra University. Gianferrara and runner-up Joanne Inglesias Vasquez will both receive a yearlong online subscription to kids.encyclopedia.com for their accomplishment.
- During Grinch Day at Archer Street, students and staff celebrated kindness and the value of family and friends. Each classroom worked on Grinch-related problem-solving activities, writing and drawing activities and how to demonstrate acts of kindness.
- Archer Street third-graders were treated to a workshop about inventions. Students learned about the special functions of historical inventions such as the telephone and meat grinder. They then created their own futuristic invention using an assortment of recycled materials.

ATHLETICS

- Freeport High School hosted the “Anyone Can Save a Life Program,” providing instruction on hands-only CPR and AED. Twenty-four student athletes and seven coaches



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participated in the training. For hosting the program, sponsored by Karen Acompora and Melinda Murray's foundations, the district has received ten mannequins and two AED trainers, valued at \$1,000.

- Freeport High School will be one of five high schools participating in Nassau County's inaugural Unified Basketball Sports program this spring. The program is sponsored by the New York Public High School Athletic Association and the Special Olympics. Unified basketball brings students with and without physical challenges together to form a single team. Freeport's team will compete against other schools in authentic basketball competition. Each school will compete in six contests and there will be a culminating event for all teams on May 21. The program will be funded by the Special Olympics and the PEP grant.

THE ARTS

- Each school in the district hosted a Winter Festival of the Arts, showcasing the musical and artistic talents of its students.
- As part of a two-day event, Columbus students visited Freeport High School to first watch 25 minutes of the classic film "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and then listen to a holiday reading by the Grinch himself. Following the reading, the Grinch led the students through the Distance Learning Center, which had been completely transformed to resemble Who-Ville. The students walked through Whoville observing the various decorative holiday stations. High school students also added to the festive spirit by caroling for the Columbus students.
- Under the leadership of Select Chorale Director Monique Retzlaff, standout singers Christopher Fludd, Joel Patterson, Kevin Jackson, Makayla Willocks, Victoria Wright, Tyler-Lenai Williams, Stefanie Workman and Jasmine Euell performed renditions of songs to rousing ovations at the annual New York State School Music Association Winter Conference in Rochester. An alternate chorus student, Christina Morris, attended the conference as part of the orchestra group. Freeport continues to have one of the highest representations of chorus students in New York State at the All-State winter conference.

ALTRUISM

- Freeport High School students participated in the school's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. community service project, preparing meals for the homeless.