



# Freeport

PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Pride*

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## POINTS OF PRIDE JUNE 2016

### ACADEMICS

- Dodd was named a recipient of the Inviting School Award by the International Alliance for Invitational Education. The award is a recognition of the school's caring and welcoming environment, which has ultimately created an outstanding positive environment.
- A record-breaking \$80,000 in community scholarship donations was presented to 145 Freeport High School seniors at the 48<sup>th</sup> annual Scholarship and Honors Program.
- Brookhaven National Laboratory presented five district students — 10th-grader Jaidiver Morales, 10th-grader Nickolas Contreras, eighth-grader Valeria Ventura, eighth-grader Jerome Horning and eighth-grader Mason Bazemore — with certificates to commemorate their completion of a scientific computing class taught by Dr. David Biersach. All five students are eligible to take more advanced classes in scientific computing at Brookhaven National Laboratory this summer.
- Freeport High School science standouts were recognized and awarded for their work and accomplishments during the 12th annual Science Awards Ceremony. The ceremony also recognized students' induction into the New York State Science Honor Society and their participation in the Science Olympiad.
- Columbus hosted a Nursery Rhyme Night for its prekindergarten students and their parents or guardians. The event, held in the school's gymnasium, featured hands-on activities designed to teach the concepts of rhyme, letter recognition and math.
- The science department at Freeport High School unveiled a time capsule that had been buried in the school's courtyard 25 years ago at a special ceremony attended by administrators, faculty members and students. The time capsule featured a variety of nostalgic items that embodied school spirit and offered a glimpse of then-current events.
- Professionals across a variety of fields, including law enforcement, culinary arts, engineering, pet therapy and music, visited Atkinson to discuss their jobs with students on Career Day.
- Archer fourth-graders visited the Nassau BOCES Outdoor Environmental Facility in Brookville, where they participated in the Project Adventure program. Students engaged



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in team building activities, which included rope climbing, cooperative games and problem-solving.

- Students at Archer Street used skills such as coding to create a group of academically rigorous projects and tasks as part of a MakerSpace event. MakerSpace, which is a community where students create, problem-solve, and develop skills, talents and the ability to think “outside the box,” was set up with a variety of stations in the school’s gymnasium.
- Atkinson fifth-graders fostered an understanding and appreciation of various cultures with their trip to Alley Park in Queens.
- The PeaceJam Juniors Club at Bayview hosted a special presentation about Nobel Peace Prize laureates whom they have learned about over the course of 10 weeks. The club also showcased a book about Desmond Tutu that they had authored and illustrated.
- Students in Dave Gordon’s technology classes at Dodd assisted the Environmental Club by designing and constructing birdhouses. For the collaborative project, spearheaded by Mr. Gordon and club advisor James Hauser, the technology students applied lessons they had learned in a “We Solve Problems” unit in class.
- Seventh-grade science students at Dodd visited the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory’s DNA Learning Center for hands-on opportunities to supplement their classroom lessons.
- Students and staff at Dodd commemorated the International Day of Yoga with an informative and interactive assembly featuring several dignitaries. The special program was designed to promote a healthy lifestyle and introduce students to the variety of benefits derived from practicing yoga. Students and staff also viewed a video about the origin and advantages of yoga and were led through a variety of stretching and breathing exercises by Dodd teacher Juan Mosquera.
- As part of a partnership with the Long Island Children’s Museum, all of the district’s third-graders and their families took part in a Family Fun Night at the Freeport Recreation Center.

## **ATHLETICS**

- Freeport High School girls track star DeAsia Greer signed a National Letter of Intent to continue running track at the University of the District of Columbia on a full scholarship. She signed the letter with her high school cross-country coach, Charles Gilreath, and winter and spring track coach, Eric Blount, by her side.
- Freeport High School Assistant Principal Joseph Mille was named Outstanding Citizen of the 2015-16 school year by the district’s athletic department. Mille was honored for his



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“dedication and concern for Freeport athletes” and was presented with a commemorative plaque.

- Freeport High School hosted its annual Sports Awards.
- All elementary schools hosted annual field days, designed to promote the importance of physical and active lifestyles through friendly competition.
- Atkinson hosted a Kickball Classic for its fifth-graders.

## **THE ARTS**

- Freeport High School junior Darwing Mendez, a Barry Tech Digital Design student, earned first place in the 2016 New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health YouthSAFE Poster Contest. Young artists were challenged to bring a message of workplace safety to fledgling workers and employers. Darwing’s winning design will be distributed on posters to schools throughout New York State next year.
- Students at Columbus presented projects about the emotions created by music at the Board of Education’s May meeting.
- Each of the district’s schools presented a Spring Festival of the Arts to administrators, members of the Board of Education, parents, guardians, staff members and students.
- District Superintendent Dr. Kishore Kuncham and Executive Director for Operations Michael Singleton were honored during the Secondary Art Exhibit at Freeport Memorial Library.
- Archer presented its annual Music and Dance Festival at Freeport High School. The rock ‘n’ roll-themed music was presented by the third- and fourth-grade students.
- Atkinson presented its remarkable rendition of “The Lion King.” The cast included Antonio Cruz and Dillon DeBourge as Simba, Ryan Francois and Amber Marquez as Scar, Reymon Gonzalez and Sameerah Lawal as Mufasa, and DeJuan Rhodes as Rafiki.
- Freeport High School hosted its annual Music Awards.

## **ALTRUISM**

- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham completed a 131-mile Peace Walk on June 6. The Peace Walk was a pilgrimage that spanned every block of the Village of Freeport, and all district and community members were encouraged to join along for any part of the journey.
- Thirty-six district retirees were individually recognized and honored with plaques by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham and the Board of Education. A total of 936 years of service were celebrated among the 36 staff members.