

Around Our Schools

JFK Students Schooled In Anti-Bullying



PHOTO BY JENNIFER GARY

Children at the JFK Elementary School in Brewster learn a special anti-bullying message in a most unusual manner.

By ERIC GROSS

Messages of anti-bullying are being taught in schools across the U.S. everyday; yet at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Brewster, America's youngest students focused their attention on every member of the bullying cycle—not just telling kids not to be bullies.

Former professional fighter Tom Murphy visited the school recently and when the giant of a man ripped off his pink button down shirt and revealed a Mr. Incredible tee shirt underneath, the first and second graders began to giggle, not realizing they were being presented with an engaging and interactive presentation on bullying.

Moments later, Murphy welcomed Rick Yarosh into the meeting hall. Yarosh, a retired sergeant with the U.S. Army, was severely maimed by an IED while serving in

Iraq. Yarosh suffered burns over 60 percent of his body. His right leg was amputated. He lost both ears, his nose, multiple fingers and most of the function in both hands.

The students were surprised by his appearance but quickly took to him as he spoke about every person in the room being different.

The six and seven-year-olds were then taught the ABC Action Plan for dealing with being bullied that included three superpowers.

Instead of placing all of the focus on the bully, the Sweethearts and Heroes Program delivers messages of empowerment, empathy and leadership by creating an awareness of what bullying is and how students can recognize it while pushing back against bullying, in addition to encouraging boys and girls to become heroes while reaching out to those who are being bullied.

Internships Open World Of Medicine for BOCES Students

Students enrolled in the Sports Medicine curriculum at the Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES are not only studying anatomy and physiology in addition to hands-on training, but many are also doing internships this semester to help them determine specific areas of medicine they are interested in.

Kevin Valdes of Mahopac High School is working at the Northern Westchester Hospital's Emergency Department while Jessica Reiner of Southeast, a student at North Salem High School, is interning at the Brightman Chiropractic and Sports Medicine Office.

Mahopac's Tess Bartman is interning at Cove Care in Carmel in the psychiatric outpatient department and her classmate, Luca Petrillo, also of Mahopac High, is interning at the Aon Physical Therapy practice in Brewster.

Three other Mahopac students are also interning this semester including Colleen McNeil, Matthew Vassallo and Joseph Muratore.

BOCES teacher Dr. Will Brightman described the internships as "inspiring which allow our students to pursue their passion in the field."

-Eric Gross



PHOTO BY KAREN THORNTON

Several BOCES students are interning this semester, including Matthew Vassallo, Jessica Reiner, Luca Petrillo, Joseph Muratore and Tess Bartman.

Hundreds Attend County Health Fair For Students

Event held at Carmel Fire Department

High school students from across the county recently traveled to the Carmel Fire Department headquarters recently for what has become an annual springtime event—the Putnam Health Department's Student Health Fair.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors browsed through a network of 15 displays put together by community organizations that allowed students to ask Health Fair Coordinator Alexa Contreras explained "ask questions with no holds barred."

She continued: "If kids had questions regarding sex, professionals were in attendance to answer them in a professional manner. Mental health specialists were also on hand as were dietitians, social workers and educators."

--Eric Gross



PHOTOS BY ERIC GROSS

Health fair coordinator Alexa Contreras, a Putnam County Health Educator, chats with students Vinnie Brought and Ralph Schloeman.



Healthy information: Three students pick up a variety of materials at the fair put on by the Putnam Health Department.

Brewster Math Students Raise Funds For Tennessee Children's Hospital

Beneficiary is St. Jude's in Memphis



PHOTO BY JENNIFER GARY

Math was made fun for these eight- and nine-year-olds thanks to members of Brewster High School's Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. Among other activities, students built three dimensional shapes, and took part in a scavenger hunt.

By ERIC GROSS

A tradition of service continues at Brewster High School.

For the 12th consecutive year, 100 members of the school's Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society worked with third graders from the C.V. Starr Intermediate School to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Students completed workbooks provided by St. Jude's while participating in a variety of math based activities under the guidance of their high school peers. The eight

and nine-year-olds developed math skills through workbook activities, played interactive games like tangrams, used pipe cleaners to build three-dimensional shapes and even enjoyed a scavenger hunt.

The younger students also had the opportunity to meet the Math-A-Thon superheroes Octagon and Fraction.

During lunch, students learned more about St. Jude's before playing games in the gym with the high school students to end the day.

Mu Alpha Theta faculty advisor Deirdre Holic said under the guidance of their high school peers. The eight

the medical center whose mission is to advance cures and means of prevention for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment.

Holic said St. Jude's was such a special place because "consistent with the vision of its founder, Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay."

Holic added: "Watching the Brewster High School students mentor the children is the high point of the school year for me since all of their hard work comes together at the Math-A-Thon and it's a

beautiful day."

In the weeks leading up to the Math-A-Thon, third-graders reached out to friends and family for sponsorship, collecting donations to St. Jude's.

"With the community's support over the last 12 years the Mu Alpha Theta Math-A-Thon has raised more than \$48,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital," said Holic.

Top Three Students in Mahopac High's Class of 2019

Congratulations to the top three students in the Mahopac High School Class of 2019.

Superintendent Anthony DiCarlo congratulated the trio on their academic prowess. The three, all young women, are Valedictorian Kathryn Alexa Kennedy, Salutatorian Kiely Hoyt, and Stephanie Felizardo, Valedictorian of the Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES Tech Program. Stephanie has majored in Childhood Education during her studies at MHS and on the BOCES Camps in Yorktown.

Each one will deliver remarks at this June's commencement exercises.

-Eric Gross



PHOTO BY LAURA LEE HOLMBO

Mahopac's top three academic honors will be awarded to (l-r) Stephanie Felizardo, Kathryn Alexa Kennedy and Kiely Hoyt at commencement exercises in June.

Saturday Is Kids' Day At Putnam Hospital Center

Children of all ages will be on hand at Putnam Hospital Center Saturday for the medical facility's 13th annual Kids Day celebration. The event features a variety of interactive health and safety exhibits and demonstrations that will be interspersed with crafts, games and children's-themed vendors. A teddy bear clinic is planned along with a child's identification program.

Demonstrations on car seat safety, proper bicycle helmet use and heart monitoring are also featured in addition to a visit from local police, fire and EMS personnel manning equipment. John Mahoney, the hospital's Manager of Volunteer Resources described Kid's Day as a "fun and festive way to take part in your community. Organizations from across the county will be on our campus celebrating children and families."

Kids' Day is a rain or shine event that takes place on the hospital campus off Stoneleigh Avenue in Carmel from 12 noon to 4 pm.