

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

TOP of Their Class




Sebastian Niculescu and Priya Mishra are not only the top-ranking students in the high school's Class of 2015, they are also models of consistent excellence. Niculescu and Mishra boast remarkable lists of accolades, ranging from their academic accomplishments to arts and student government. Their bodies of work represent firm beliefs in hard work, and each has effectively and brilliantly laid the foundation for a promising future.

As Valedictorian, Niculescu has an overall weighted average of 102.41. He was named to all subject area honor societies, is a member of the National Honor and Merit Scholars Society, vice president of the National French Honor Society, co-president of the National Art Honor Society, treasurer of the National Science Honor Society, and secretary of the Model United Nations club. He has also served on the executive board for the Science Olympiad team.

He supplemented a most rigorous schedule with online mathematics and science-oriented classes. Through institutions including the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Brookhaven National Lab and the Institute of Mathematics

Education, Research and Instructional Technology, Niculescu fulfilled his thirst for constant learning by enrolling in summer courses. In August, he began Multivariable Calculus with Linear Algebra, a college-level course at Stony Brook University. He conducted independent research in variable metric spaces and began to independently study abstract algebra. He also traveled to Romania and France, and immersed himself in learning the Romanian language and culture. He practiced his French in Paris and explored art history at museums such as the Louvre and Centre Pompidou. He also continued making sculptures, installations and paintings.

Outside of school, Niculescu is on the executive board of the NYC Teen Art Gallery. His first painting, "Manifesto Zero," was showcased at Galerie Protégé's "Monster" exhibition. He had a video installation/sculpture titled "Dichotomy Number 1" at the "Green Light" exhibit, and curated the creative writing section of that exhibit. He earned first place in the Sculpture Category of the New York State Olympics of the Visual Arts.

"His work ethic and thirst for knowledge are extraordinary,"

said guidance counselor Alice Hannon. "Sebastian is artistic and creative as much as he is analytical and mathematically precise. It is an interesting and amazing combination that truly makes him the extraordinary young man I have grown to know and respect immensely."

Niculescu will attend the Brown-Rhode Island School of Design Dual Degree Program, a 5 year program that will allow him to earn two degrees (one from each school). Only 17 students were admitted internationally.

Salutatorian Mishra has an overall weighted average of 101.75. She has taken several honors and AP courses throughout high school, and is currently enrolled in seven AP courses. She is president of the National Honor Society and secretary of the Equality Club.

Her artwork has been displayed at Heckscher Museum, where it won the Krasowitz Digital Portfolio Award.

Outside of school, Mishra practices karate and is being considered as a candidate for a black belt. She teaches karate to autistic children.

"Priya is an extraordinary person who is not just an academic, but also a student who embodies exceptional character," said Sanjay Parande, her guidance counselor. "She is driven, yet she remains grounded, humble, honest and compassionate. [She] is focused and goal-oriented. Priya is the type of person who is always looking to challenge herself academically and works very hard to achieve her goals. What sets [her] apart is her ability to manage her time."

Mishra will attend Columbia University in the fall where she will major in Computer Science.

The TOP 20

1. Sebastian Niculescu
2. Priya Mishra
3. Tyler Fotenos
4. Alexandra Cabra
5. Zafreen Siddiquee
6. Tiffany Zhou
7. Julie Choi
8. Janine Meurer
9. Gabrielle Goubran
10. Abhishek Doshi
11. Hira Iftikhar
12. Andrew Purcell
13. Noelle Batista
14. Christy Chen
15. Philip Arsenian
16. Kevin Chen
17. Mina Gradinarov
18. Charlene Abogado
19. Mary Joy Mendoza
20. Edwin Ramilo Jr.

Inductions of Excellence



The Hicksville High School Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 141 new members during its annual ceremony in the school's auditorium.

President Priya Mishra, vice president Kaitlyn Sullivan, corresponding secretary Anna Cheng, recording secretary Zafreen Siddiquee and treasurer Gabrielle Goubran led a candle-lighting ceremony prior to the announcement of the new members' names. Each candle was a different color to represent a character trait, and the NHS officers explained the society's list of virtues.



To be considered for induction into the NHS, students must be recommended by four teachers, achieve a cumulative grade point average of 90 percent or better, and participate in community service. The inductees pledged to represent the society with honor and dignity and continue exemplifying its standards of character, scholarship, leadership and service.

SCIENTIFICALLY SUPERB TEAM HEADS TO STATES

The Science Olympiad teams at the middle school participated in the New York State Western Long Island Regional Competition, and Team A qualified for the state competition. The teams, under the direction of coaches Stella Drakos and Jason Ehrlich, competed in 23 events, including anatomy and building a wheeled vehicle. Team A placed sixth out of 42 teams and is headed to Syracuse to compete against teams from throughout the state on April 17-18.



Team A is comprised of Catherine Chen, Divya Dommaraju, Sejal Gupta, Razeen Hossain, Viveka Jain, Sebica Katel, Michal Lewkowicz, Aaron Li, Somya Mehta, Ryan Meyer, Ohm Patel, Rishika Thayavally, Dirac Tien, Fatima Warda and Jordan Wulff. Team B members, Cindy Cheng, Gurkirat Parhar and Snedhadri Das, will be accompanying the team as alternates.

Art and



The wind ensemble performed "Sparkle" with Sebastian Niculescu's artistic vision as a backdrop.

'SPARKLE' DAZZLES AND DELIGHTS

For many years, band teacher Chad Wyman and art teacher Beth Atkinson had discussed the idea of a project that could be simultaneously presented for an incredible multimedia display. During the first week of the 2014-15 school year, Atkinson approached Wyman with a suggestion involving one of her finest students.

Enter the high school's Class of 2015 Valedictorian, who can add yet another accolade to his stellar list of accomplishments. Standout Sebastian Niculescu spearheaded the collaboration, which was highlighted to perfection at the district's band concert in March.

Niculescu, who was named a scholar-artist earlier in the year, created a multimedia medley of moving images to accompany the high school wind ensemble's performance of "Sparkle," a seven-minute piece of music. He represented his vision through 13 different video creations, each of which was shown simultaneously on separate displays throughout the auditorium — six large television sets, four projectors displaying their images on walls, and three built-in screens. The videos, which were comprised of various images such as hands, mouths and eyes, were shown using DVD players, and each had to be triggered at the exact same time to ensure



Band teacher Chad Wyman, Sebastian Niculescu and art teacher Beth Atkinson collaborated to create a multimedia masterpiece.

Music SPOTLIGHT

alignment with the music.

In addition to the 42 members of the wind ensemble who performed “Sparkle,” 26 student volunteers assisted the setup and execution of the coordinated piece. Video technology teacher Adam Clive worked with Wyman and Atkinson to support and present Niculescu’s creation accurately.

“Sebastian is an immensely talented artist,” Wyman said. “‘Sparkle’ gave Sebastian a blank canvas to create his own interpretation. While he works with different media, he has become quite adept at creating multimedia art through the use of video.”

“I never had a student who thinks the way Sebastian thinks,” Atkinson said. “He’s been working on this since the beginning of the school year, and he’s been immersed in perfecting it. Sebastian’s vision, and what he has created, is truly remarkable.”

STUDENTS, TEACHERS PUT THE “ART IN HEART”

Nine students and three teachers throughout the district had their artwork displayed at the Broadway Mall’s “Art in HeART” exhibit from March 10 to April 19. “Art in HeART” is a countywide show sponsored by the Long Island chapter of the New York State Art Teachers Association.

Students Jacqueline Gambino (grade 8), Katherine Gil Mejia (grade 7), Hiri Iftikhar (grade 12), Mara Matos (grade 6), Melody Methakul (grade 12), Katherine Rojas (grade 11), Leo Sanchez (grade 11), Julianna Shannon (grade 9), and Kristen Van Aken (grade 11), and art teachers Beth Atkinson (honorable mention), Elizabeth Nafte (first place), and Michelle Lesser (second and third place), were the artists representing the district. All 12 had their artwork juried prior to their public display.

A reception and awards ceremony to honor the artists was held on March 29.

TAKING CLASSICAL TALENTS TO CHICAGO

High school sophomore Cecilia Funk will be heading to Chicago on May 22-24 to compete in the second round of the annual Classical Singer Competition.



Funk, who prepared three classical art songs for her live audition to compete in the first round of the Classical Singer Competition at Hofstra University, was selected as a finalist. She has the opportunity to win \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place or \$250 for third place in Chicago.

GREASE HITS HHS STAGE

Danny, Sandy, Rizzo, Kenickie, Miss Lynch and the rest of the cast of *Grease* lit up the high school’s stage for its annual musical in March.

The play, directed by theater and English teacher Dena Cinque, featured the familiar ballads and dance routines popularized by the 1978 film. Under the directorship of music teacher Chad Wyman, cast members presented several



Classic numbers from *Grease* delighted the audience.

hits, including “Summer Nights,” “Hand Jive,” “You’re the One That I Want,” “Hopelessly Devoted to You” and “Greased Lightning,” to the delight of the audience.

Gabrielle Goubran portrayed Sandy, C.J. Sprinkle, Danny; Danielle Diaz, Rizzo, Alex Nadelman, Kenickie, and Veronica Morrish, Miss Lynch.

PETER PAN GRACES HMS

The middle school’s Drama Club presented *Peter Pan* in March, displaying the hard work of the more than 120 members of the cast and crew. The play, directed by teachers Thomas DePalo, Laurie Haddock and Justin Starr, sold a record-breaking number of tickets for the



Peter Pan sold a record-breaking number of tickets.

annual mid-March staple.

“The skillful performances reflected months of preparation and dedication on the part of our students and staff,” said Principal Mara Jorisch.

Visit the district website for additional school news and important information.
www.hicksvillepublicschools.org

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Administration Building
200 Division Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801

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All About ELEMENTARY



BURNS AVENUE

Stepping Out for the Burnies

The annual Burnie Awards at Burns Avenue featured students making grand entrances while dressed up as storybook characters from some of the children's favorite books. The event included dance routines and performances by students who portrayed some of the characters from the books of Dr. Seuss. Awards for the favorite books on each grade level were also given to the students who portrayed characters from the books that were selected by the students prior to the ceremony. Teachers announced the winners from a pool of four costumed contestants on each grade level and presented each of them with a Burnie award.

DUTCH LANE

Seeing Red for Heart Health

As part of their support for the American Heart Association, students and staff at Dutch Lane observed National Wear Red Day to spread awareness for women's health. In addition to donating funds to the AHA, the Dutch Lane community decorated the school fence with the words "Go Red" using red plastic cups, each put into place by a different student.

EAST STREET

Raz Revolutionizes Reading

English language learners at East Street are taking advantage of an interactive and leveled reading program to facilitate their education. Raz-Kids assists students with reading comprehension and grammar skills in several ways. It contains an audio component so they can listen to fiction and nonfiction stories and follow them up by answering questions and recording their voices to improve fluency.

FORK LANE

Wax Figures Come Alive

During Madame Coley's and Madame Abbatiello's Wax Museum event, students at Fork Lane became icons on display. The fourth-graders assumed the roles of famous individuals after researching who they would like to portray. Each student prepared a first-person informative speech to recite to families and community members visiting the "museum."



LEE AVENUE

Enjoying a 'Pi' Eating Contest

Lee Avenue fifth-graders celebrated Pi Day by seeing Principal Stephanie Stam perform a magic trick, followed by a pie-eating contest among three students. Also, all students participated in a "Pi Day Fundraiser" where students were able to purchase a slice of pie during lunch. The money raised was donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



OLD COUNTRY ROAD

A History Night to Remember

Old Country Road's third annual History Night brought together more than 100 students and their families for an educational evening about life during the American Civil War. The program featured hands-on workshops, which included creating artificial oysters, playing mancala games and dominoes, and cracking codes using a cipher wheel. Parent volunteers, who were trained by teachers on how to facilitate the workshops, taught students and their families how to participate in the projects and tasks.

WOODLAND

Students and Loved Ones Work Together

As part of their Special Person's Day celebration, students at Woodland spent quality time with their loved ones while participating in a task or game. The schoolwide event featured a variety of activities for the special guests of students in each grade level: kindergartners and first-graders created a craft, third-graders worked on a PowerPoint presentation, and fourth- and fifth-graders played "Are You Smarter Than a Fourth- or Fifth-Grader?" against their loved ones.