

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Administration Building  
200 Division Avenue  
Hicksville, NY 11801

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# Centered on CONNECTIONS

As an extension of its commitment to connecting its schools to the community, the district is proud to announce the grand opening of its new Parent Center. Located in the administration building, the space provides material, technical and human resources to support and assist the families, parents and community members of Hicksville.

An invaluable resource, the community is encouraged to take advantage of the center, which is open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 3-9 p.m. on Wednesdays. A clerical worker is available during these hours to field phone calls, set up workshops, establish resources and oversee the center.

Claire Hochheiser, director of special education and pupil

personnel services and chairperson of the Parent Center district committee, said the district is in the process of hiring a part-time psychologist at the Parent Center.

“The psychologist will work with students and parents on issues of social and emotional health,” Ms. Hochheiser said. “There is a focus on academics for all student-parent learning, and hopefully we will capture the prekindergarten audience as well. We have computers available for parents to use for a wide range of purposes, including research and résumé writing, and we want them to feel free to come in looking for any resources.”

Additional information about the Parent Center and upcoming events is available on the district’s website at [www.hicksvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hicksvillepublicschools.org), under the “For Parents” tab.



## Woodland’s New Principal

The district is proud to add to its team Diana Ketcham, who began serving as principal of Woodland in November following the retirement of Mary Hance.

Ms. Ketcham began her career in education in 1997 at Babylon Memorial Grade School in the Babylon School District. During her 10 years in Babylon, she taught both general education and inclusion classes for a number of grades at the elementary level. In 2007, she was hired as the principal of Blue Point Elementary School in the Bayport-Blue Point School District, where she served for more than a decade until accepting the principal position at Woodland.

“As I begin this next phase of my career, I am excited to be working in collaboration with staff, students and the community to continue enhancing Woodland School and supporting the district’s efforts as we prepare all of our students for success,” Ms. Ketcham said.

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## Superb Scholars

### National AP Scholars

David Adames, Andy Chen, Nabil Chowdhury, Olias Christie, Robert Fellows, Danielle Grey-Stewart and Sailesh Srinivas

### AP Scholars with Distinction

Maram Abdelhamid, David Adames, Adithya Ajith, Elizabeth Antinora, Neeloy Bose, Awaiss But, Andy Chen, Nabil Chowdhury, Olias Christie, Aamir Dave, Leanne Demling, Robert Fellows, Jeevan George, Jorge Gomez, Danielle Grey-Stewart, Caroline Hoang, Johnson Jang, Jaskirat Kaur, Manpreet Kaur, Stephen Ketelsen, Neil Khilwani, Erin Krieger, Navneet Lingala, Sonali Malhotra, Shana Mathew, Nolan Mingst, Salaiha Mughai, Fatemah Mukadem, Hersh Nagnal, Amina Nasari, Krish Patel, Monit Patel, Alexander Pierce, Priyansh Raval, Amber Sanchez, Sailesh Srinivas,

Daniel Sullivan, Mark Sullivan, Jakub Tarlowski, Sristi Tyagi, Gabriela Vidar and Christina Zhab

### AP Scholars with Honor

Adil Ansari, Devashish Basnet, Michael Buckley, Harrison Chan, Medjie Chery, Richard Faria, Dakota Filigenzi, Cecilia Funk, Avik Gomes, Jonathan Kinnaman, Tasmia Majid, Stephanie Minutillo, Ohm Patel, Asghar Shah, Bhargawi Vutukuri and Ryan Willet

### AP Scholars

Alina Abraham, Alvin Abraham, Jonathan Accatino, Jarif Ahmed, Faima Ali, Harleen Anand, Zainab Ansari, Olivia Blankson, Jasdeep Braich, Jake Britton, Aarsal Butt, Gianella Cabrera, Gianna Camacho, Serena Chan, Catherine Chen, Cindy Cheng, Kate Cimino, Jack Colasanti, Snehadri Das, Mohammad Fares,

Erica Farsang, Rishi Gupta, Kelly Herder, Syed Hoque, Mohammad Humayun, Ammer Hussaini, David Huynh, Gurjot Kaur, Hamoor Kaur, Irfaan Khan, Sabri Khanyousafzai, Colleen Kingsepp, Jacob Kinnaman, Michael Lewkowicz, Maron Li, Nicole Lobo, Saim Mahmood, Rhea Manjrekar, Anya Marquardt, Searra Mascaro, Ayanna Nelson, Gabriela Niculescu, Anjali Patel, Austin Reed, Sukaina Rizvi, Adam Sanfilippo, Anthony Sangiovanni, Nicole Scalamandre, Christian Sekosan, Dillon Shaw, Barzeen Siddiquee, Justin Simon, Kyle Singh, Teghpal Singh, Storm Strongin, Steffy Thomas, Sarah Tsang, Alexis Tuvilla, Daniel Varghese, Geovany Vera, Fatima Warda, Justin Weiss, Breanna Wigdzinski, Alexander Wiseman, Terence Wong, Jason Yang and Lillian Zheng

## National Merit Semifinalist

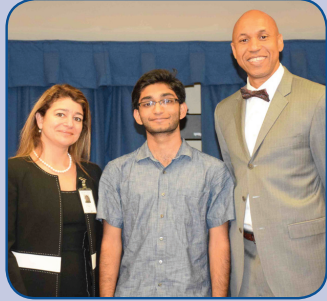
Earlier this year, outstanding high school senior Adithya Ajith was named a semifinalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Competition. He became one of 16,000 students

nationwide – representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors – to qualify in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring.

To become a finalist, Ajith submitted a detailed scholarship application, providing information about his academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. Approximately 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation.

National Merit Scholar finalists are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies.



## Thank You

Thank you for supporting the bond that will continue our mission to enhance 21st Century learning for our students and connect our schools with the community.

# CONNECTING SCHOOLS with COMMUNITY

**HICKSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Community Cleanup**  
Aligned with one of their primary goals of giving back to the community, members of the National Junior Honor Society volunteered to help clean the beaches and shoreline areas of Oyster Bay Harbor. The 40 students worked together to help make the harbor safer and more aesthetically pleasing.



**HICKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**A Goal to Help Children**  
For the eighth consecutive year, the boys lacrosse team donated toys and gift cards to patients and their families in the children's cancer unit at NYU Winthrop Hospital. The team went room to room in the unit to personally distribute the items to the children in the true spirit of the holiday season.



**A Community Resource: The Future of Hicksville Schools**  
A major component of the recently passed bond is the brand-new aquatic center, which will feature a competition six-lane, 25-meter indoor swimming pool, as well as a lobby for guests and community use. This resource will enhance curricular and extracurricular activities for students, offer open swim opportunities to senior citizens, provide a revenue stream to offset the budget and serve as an asset for the entire Hicksville community. Thank you for supporting the continued connection between school and community. We look forward to sharing the many opportunities this will afford.



**EAST STREET**  
**Donations for Doggies**  
The Student Council collected boxes of empty water bottles from each classroom and organized them to be taken to local recycling centers to raise money for the Canine Companions organization. They helped raise more than \$600 and donated more than 300 dog pull toys.



**FORK LANE**  
**Hurricane Helpers**  
In light of the tragic hurricanes in Miami and Houston, the Site Based Team collected necessary items such as wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo to benefit victims. The PTA also joined in the effort by sending backpacks.



**DUTCH LANE**  
**Seeds of Success**  
Parents watched their kindergartners plant the seeds of success in the annual Kinder-garden event. Students planted tulip bulbs in the garden alongside the school – signifying the planting of the tiny seeds of citizenship, respect, responsibility, curiosity and knowledge – and simultaneously beautified school grounds while making parents an important part of the project.



The district believes that all members of the Hicksville community play crucial roles in the development of the students who will shape its future. Students connecting directly with the community – including parents, residents, local businesses and civic associations – fosters a sense of community pride among all and aligns the district's goals to exchange ideas that spur growth and develop long-term partnerships. The commitment to connecting with the community teaches students that they are important parts of a larger society, while instilling selflessness and altruism. It benefits parents,

businesses and community members to stay informed, involved and connected with the district, its students and their future.

Throughout the year, the district hosts numerous events and activities, at the district and building levels, to strengthen these ties to the community.

Building-level examples of how our students and community connect on an everyday basis are illustrated in the boxes on pages 2 and 3.

Ongoing, districtwide examples include:

- Industry Advisory Board meetings to build school-

- business partnerships.
- Routine visits from guest speakers.
- Senior citizen luncheons.
- Parent University events to support parents in their child's education.
- Supe's On forums led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso.
- Formation of community committees.
- PTA events.
- Parent Center resources (more information available on page 4).

**BURNS AVENUE**  
**Coats and Care**  
The Student Council collected gently used coats as part of a drive to benefit the New York Cares organization. As a result of their dedication, more than 50 coats were donated to support New Yorkers in need.



**WOODLAND**  
**Forum for Firefighters**  
Members of the Hicksville Fire Department reinforced fire safety tips for students and allowed them to observe equipment and tools that are commonly used. This bond is crucial at the elementary level to ensure a young student is never scared of a firefighter in the event of a real emergency.



**OLD COUNTRY ROAD**  
**Planting and Partnerships**  
Working with community partners, including the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District, North Shore Land Alliance, Girl Scouts and Town of Oyster Bay Environmental Specialists, the school plants and maintains its beautiful Emerald Gardens. The gardens are not only a classroom ecology learning center for students, but also open to the community to pick vegetables from. Any surplus vegetables are donated to local food pantries.



**LEE AVENUE**  
**Hometown Heroes**  
As part of Hicksville Hometown Heroes, staff and students were encouraged to bring photographs of their relatives who served or are serving in the military, police force or fire department. During the holiday, photos were laminated and hung on a tree in the lobby, acknowledging these real-life heroes and all they do for the community each and every day.

