



# The Bulldog Junior

Island Trees Memorial Middle School  
45 Wantagh Avenue  
Levittown, NY 11756

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## Help and Hope For Haiti

By Brian Scally

January has been a destructive month for the country of Haiti. With earthquakes destroying the land and killing thousands, this country that shares an island with Dominican Republic, will never be the same.

People from around the world have united to help the relief effort in Haiti. With family and friends lost in the wreckage, the Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, police officers, firemen and women, as well as many others have flocked to Haiti with the hopes to do what they can.

Here in the Island Trees Memorial Middle School, many efforts are in place to help out the damaged country. The Builder's Club has placed a Red Cross canister in every GOAL room



These fifth grade students are not only trying to win a certificate to be used in class, but are also donating to help Haiti recover from the devastating earthquakes.

for students and teachers to donate loose change. Mrs. Wainwright's class, for example, raised eighty dollars for Haiti

so far. Everyone can donate something! Even a penny can make a difference. Students could also

donate to the Red Cross by playing PLINKO at lunch time. For just a quarter, kids could drop the coin down the board in the hopes of winning a certificate good for a homework pass or five points on a test. This fundraiser brought in over six hundred dollars for the relief efforts. Teachers did their part too. In order to "dress down" on Fridays, teachers donated money to the Red Cross. They raised close to four hundred dollars.

Although Haiti is a good distance away, we can still help. Island Trees should feel proud of themselves for taking care of others. By helping others, we know we have done what is right and what we would hope others would do for us if we needed it.

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All pictures were taken by J. Previdi unless otherwise noted.



Photo taken by M. Grasso

Congratulations to Mr. Gonzalez's and Mr. Spuches's GOALS. They have taken home the trophy and title of GOAL Volleyball Champions for the 2009-2010 school year.

## The Bulldog Junior

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## Our Students are “Terrific” Red Verses White

By R. Bloom

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the Memorial Middle School hosted its annual Kiwanis Club of Levittown’s Terrific Kids awards assembly. Twenty-five students were recognized for their efforts in being a responsible student, as well as a responsible citizen.

In order to become a “Terrific Kid,” a student must be Thoughtful,

Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Influential, Friendly, Impeccable, and Caring.

Students were nominated by their teachers and presented with a certificate of honor and a bumper sticker for demonstrating these character traits. We are proud of all our 2009 Terrific Kids Recipients..

By Matthew Yearsley

The annual middle school Sportsnight competition was held this past November. This year featured the downstairs Goal rooms as the Red team facing the upstairs Goal rooms as the White team.

Events included the over-under relay, tug of war, relay race, cage ball, volleyball, and Jazzercise. For the benefit of those who do not know, five points were awarded to the winners of each event, and three points are awarded to the opposing team. Points were awarded for events mentioned above, as well as artwork and sportsmanship. However, the most

important part of the evening was to have fun! Sportsnight is not like other teams in the middle school that require students to be in seventh or eighth grade; Sportsnight is open to students in all grade levels.

This year’s winners, in the closest Sportsnight in middle school history, was the White team. The final score was an astonishing 107-106, with the White team winning with sportsmanship, so always remember to listen to the student leaders and cheer for both teams! Congratulations to the White team. Hope to see you again at next year’s Sportsnight.



Photo taken by M. Grasso

These terrific kids are pictured with Dr. Murphy, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Ray, President of the Board of Education; Mr. Hudes, Town of Hempstead Councilman; Mr. Walsh, Levittown Kiwanis; Mr. Bloom, Principal; Mr. Burns, Assistant Principal; Mr. Radcliffe, Student Support Center Chairperson; Ms. Graziosi, Guidance Counselor; Mr. Hoffman; Guidance Counselor; and Mrs. Huller, Student Support Center Secretary.

### Terrific Kids Recipients

Student Name	Grade	Nominated By
Ashley Adler	7	Mrs. Barfield
Matthew Antonelli	6	Mrs. Hassell & Mr. Esposito
Taylor Carpenter	6	Mrs. O’Neill
Corinne Carroll	7	Ms. Siniscalchi
Kelly Cembrale	7	Mr. Burstyn
John Flagler	5	Ms. Pepper
Maggie Hastings	6	Ms. Vasco
Kaeley Johnston	5	Ms. Vasco
Justin Kampf	8	Mr. Guido
Bridget Lively	7	Ms. Liebman
Alyssa Lopez	6	Ms. Trainor
Korey Magnus	5	Mrs. Nieves
Sean Morris	6	Ms. Busam & Mrs. Buckley
Elizabeth Mullin	5	Mr. Conklin & Mrs. Castellano
Sean Murphy	8	Ms. Means
Eddie Navarrete	5	Ms. Bergamino
Austin Nowak	5	Ms. Briscoe
Peter Potamouisis	5	Ms. Firmbach, Naughton & Castellano
Jenna Reilly	5	Ms. Previdi
Justin Rigney	5	Mrs. Frumberg
Leanne Rossano	5	Ms. Trainor
Catherine Zamroz	5	Mrs. Koester
Andrew Zabala	8	Mr. Burstyn
Christie Ciaramitaro	7	Mrs. Steele
Catherine Coffey	8	Mrs. Friedman

## Interactive Science

By Bilal Khan

The Liberty Science Center field trip was very fun and interesting.

The museum had a lot of cool and interactive exhibits describing many topics in science. The center also had a variety of fish, spiders, and reptiles. In addition to touring the museum, students watched two movies. One of

the movies viewed was in an IMAX theatre. This movie featured natural disasters. The other movie was in a regular theatre, but was in 3D. It was about what actually lives on humans.

After the shows, students saw a few more exhibits and then headed home after a long, fun day.

## Author Visit

By Michael Teneriello

This past December, Brian Heinz visited our school. He is an author of many books, as well as a former teacher. He spoke about how to write a book and what good writers need to know if they are interested in writing their own books. Then he explained the steps that a story needs to go through before getting published. Some of his crazy adventures in Canada, the Rocky Mountains and the Okefenokee Swamp helped form ideas for his books. He encourages readers to write their own books.



Mrs. Frumberg and author, Brian Heinz, smiled with some students during his visit to ITMMS.

## Ms. Vasco: Teacher Award

By R. Bloom

Congratulations to Ms. Gloria Vasco in being named the KJOY 98.3 Teacher Feature award winner.

Ms. Vasco was nominated for this honor by a MMS family for her special work with students in the music program and the extracurricular activity program. Ms. Vasco conducts the fifth and sixth grade concert bands, the fifth and sixth grade jazz band, is the director of the fifth and sixth grade Talent Show, the assistant director of the seventh and eighth grade Talent Show, and coaches the cheerleading team. Ms. Vasco was



interviewed on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and her interview was featured on the Steve and Maria Show on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, between 7:00-7:30 a.m. Congratulations to Ms. Vasco!

## Binghamton Crosbys Sing

### on our Stage

By Brionna Rogers and Gabby Witkowski

The seventh and eighth graders got to watch a very talented group on of college men perform on January 2, 2010. Justin, Karlo, Jordan, Drew, Mike, Rob, David, Ted, Jeremy, John and Paul are the eleven men who make up the all male a cappella Binghamton Crosbys.

After 1½ years, the group has remained together. After some careful research, it became apparent that they are a four time national championship finalist and winner of ICCA, International competition for Collegiate

A Cappella Championships. They even won top prize in 2003.

These men traveled from Binghamton University to sing for the students. They sang seven songs for the audience including "House of Blue Lights", "Stay with You", and "Pinball Wizard." After the performance, the students got the chance to ask some questions. The audience learned that one of the group's favorite songs to perform is "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus and the spectators were treated to a little sample of it.

It was a great experience.

## The Holiday Spirit

By Dylan Reilly

On December 4, 2009 the whole fifth grade went to Hofstra University to see the play "A Christmas Carol."

The famous play was about an old, rich man named Scrooge. He lived in the 1800s as a businessman who happens to hate Christmas time. One night, before Christmas he was met by the three ghosts. They each took him on a journey through his past, present, and future life. This in turn helps Scrooge

finally appreciate the true spirit of Christmas time.

The trip to Hofstra to see this play was very exciting and entertaining. In my opinion, the acting was fantastic. Also, it was a good experience to walk on a college campus because someday we will be going to college.

Everyone enjoyed themselves a whole lot. What a way to start the Christmas season!

## Scientist in School

By Christina Ragusa

On December 22, 2009, ITMMS was visited by Jeff Boyle. He presented an amazing energy assembly to the fifth and sixth grade. The assembly was called "Fun With Energy."

Jeff Boyle kicked off the show with reviewing all different types of energy. Some included sound, wind, mechanical, and solar. He chose a couple of students from the audience to help with some experiments on stage. Everyone wanted to be picked. The experiments were very interesting. One of them used a huge slingshot to blow out a fire on top of a helmet while it was on a child's head. Another experiment included a huge blowing machine to unroll paper towels over the audience's heads. The crowd went wild!

It truly was a very interesting assembly.



Jeff Boyle brought us science first hand.

By Anna Ahmed

The seventh and eighth graders were invited to an assembly back in December with a mad scientist named Jeff Boyle.

He showed students a variety of demonstrations. One included putting a bowling ball at nose level and then letting go. The result was that bowling ball wouldn't touch your nose again. This was because of friction and gravity. The most interesting demonstration was when he wore his skates and helmet and held a fire extinguisher. As he flicked the extinguisher on, he rolled across the stage due to its power. He was rewarded with amazing applause from the audience.

## Greenkill: A Boy's Perspective

By Vincent Simonetti

School field trips are always fun. There are lots of field trips in ITMMS. The best one has to be Greenkill.

Greenkill is great because it is a week of hanging out with friends, doing fun activities, and getting to know your teacher out of the classroom. Kids don't always get the best sleep because there may be a kid in the room that will keep the others up all night or if you wake up in the middle of the night someone may be snoring.

Kids wake up at 6:45am everyday and head to an early bird activity. Students get to choose the activity based on the options the naturalist offer. They may include walking around the lake, dodge ball, or tag.

The dining hall is very organized. They call kids by table to get food and even seconds. Later, everyone must help clean up the compost, food waste and the dishes, even though there is one child on kitchen patrol each meal.

Every cabin is a little different. This may depend on who your teacher is or what cabin you are in. I was lucky enough to be in the new cabin, Evergreen and it was huge! It has two

flat screen TV's and large rooms. My naturalist was Martine. He was really nice and funny. We did activities like going to the "haunted" cabins and walk across a rope above a river!

Each night there was a different event for everyone to take part in together. One night after dinner there was an awesome reptile show. There were snapping turtles and snakes. Kids were allowed to touch some of them. They were cool. There also was a bird show. Students saw a turkey vulture and a baby bird too.

Greenkill was a great experience where kids learned valuable lessons and had lots of fun. I wish I could do it all over again!



These girls are ready for Greenkill.

Photo taken by M. Hatzopoulos

## Greenkill: A Girl's Perspective

By Michelle Zaslofsky

Greenkill was a great experience for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, students began the five day journey boarding coach buses for the two hour trip.

Upon arriving at Greenkill, kids got settled into the cabins. There was Maple, Tall Pines, Hemlock, Rocky Top, Evergreen and Laurel. Everyone met their learning groups for the week. After we woke up, and before dinner each day, kids had choice activities where they can choose what activity they wanted to do. There were hikes, the rope bridge, basketball and more. There were three meals a day, including a salad bar. We always had dessert after dinner, cake or ice cream. Everybody was K.P. at least once or twice. It stands for Kitchen Patrol. When you're KP, you set your table, serve everybody, and clean the table up. The people at Greenkill also counted up how much food waste each table made.

Some of the cabins had talent shows. My cabin, Hemlock, had two talent shows. There was singing, magic, and even a Rubik's Cube competition. We also made s'mores.

We used twigs to roast the marshmallows in the fireplace.

With our learning groups, we went on many hikes. We went on hikes to the rope bridge, up steep hills, and other places. One day, we rubbed two rocks together, which made face paint. We also made cinnamon pretzels in the Learning Building. On our last night, we had a campfire. We sang songs around the fire and read *The Lorax*.

Some of us were homesick, but we all were cheered up by the animal show that we got to see. There were turtles, hawks, owls and more. On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we woke up at 7:00am to pack up and bring our luggage to the bus stop. I had such bad luck; my zipper broke on my suitcase! It had to stay open during the whole ride home! After our last breakfast, we went to our learning groups one last time for our Town Meeting. We each drew our own design for something useful for the town. We voted on which group had the best drawing and idea. My group won! After lunch, we got on the bus and came back home.

Greenkill was an amazing trip that I will never forget.

Order a Yearbook  
Today!  
See Ms. Grasso or  
Mrs. Mazzo for more  
information.

## The Mural Club

By Janice Hur

This Year, Island Trees Memorial Middle School has a new club. It is the Mural Club in which students from grades five through eight can participate.

Ms. Busam and Mrs. Gravina lead the club. Students started off by making quick sketches and building them week by week. While we work, Ms. Busam turns on music that sometimes inspires us or calms our mind. As weeks go by, our sketches narrow down and we keep adding details and life to the picture. The goal

is to paint the staircase near the bus platform. Our topic is "Emotions." Our hope is for students to look at our murals in the morning and associate their emotions with it for the day.

This club is for you if you're passionate about drawing, or love to doodle. Don't worry if you're not a very good artist; Ms. Busam and Mrs. Gravina are always willing to help if you're stuck. The club meets in Ms. Busam's room every Wednesday.

Come and let your imagination run wild!

### Did you know...

\*An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

\*A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

\*\*"Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

## Seventh Grade Basketball Stars

By Casey Stephens



These boys do I.T. proud.

Anthony O'Connell and Ryan Willoughby are both members of the seventh grade boys' basketball team. They are both point guards for the Bulldogs and have been playing the sport since the age of seven. Basketball is a big part of their lives. This season, both boys agree, their favorite moment from the team is when Rob LiVoti shot over the backboard. When reflecting on how their team can improve next year, they believe the boys should work on running the plays better.

As for becoming NBA stars, the future is yet to be seen, but the boys do admire the abilities of Carmelo Anthony and Tracy McGrady.

## Andrew Kramer: Basketball Player

By Isam Khan

Andrew Kramer started playing basketball at the age of four. He is now on the boys' eighth grade basketball team coached by Mr. Haggerty.

Andrew's number is twelve. Shooting is Andrew's favorite part of the sport. In fact, he likes shooting three pointers best. Andrew didn't think it was very hard to make the school's team, but there was a lot of pressure. The most points he has scored for his team in one game is fifteen he has scored 54 points for the Bulldogs this season.

Andrew says Dan Connelly is one of his favorite players on the team.



Andrew is an important part of the boys' basketball team.

## We're Off to See the Wizard

By Jenna Diognardi

This year the seventh grade class went on a trip to see the play, *Wicked* on Broadway.

On the day of the trip, students had to wear nice clothes to school because there was a dress code. Girls had to wear nice shirts and maybe a skirt or dress. Boys had to wear dress shirts and pants. It took about two hours to get to the Gershwin Theatre in New York City for the show. When the buses arrived, everyone got a Playbill. The show began quickly after this.

*Wicked* is about the life of the Wicked Witch of the West and what happens to her in the Wizard of Oz. The play was about 2 hours long and every minute of it was breathtaking. In the middle of the play there was an intermission where the kids could buy souvenirs. At the end of the play, we went on our busses and went home.

I had so much fun at *Wicked* that as soon as I went home, I wanted to go see it again!

## Name That DJ

Try and match the faculty member with the song they chose to play when they were DJ for a day.

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Pepper   | A. Umbrella                |
| 2. Mrs. Nieves  | B. Living in America       |
| 3. Ms. Naughton | C. Evacuate the Dancefloor |
| 4. Mrs. McNally | D. If You Want to Sing Out |
| 5. Mrs. Travers | E. Rythm is Gonna Get You  |

Answers: 1.C 2.E 3.A 4.B 5.D

## Word Search

S C I E N C E K M M  
 C H A T A U N U S A  
 D W T R R P G J A T  
 G R E A R O L Y Y C  
 H F N I M L I H R S  
 G Y G N W N S T O I  
 S P A N I S H R T E  
 J Y D A I E W X S C  
 H C N E R F R T I E  
 B H S P P S H Y H N

Try to locate:

- SCIENCE
- HISTORY
- MATH
- ENGLISH
- SPANISH
- FRENCH
- ART



Congratulations to Mr. Esposito's GOAL on winning this year's Quizzer tournament.

Photo taken by M. Grasso.



*Coach Spuches led the seventh grade Bulldogs this season.*



*The seventh grade girls' volleyball team did us proud.*



*The eighth grade boys' basketball team had a great season.*



*With Coach Firmbach's guidance, the girls' volleyball team has never been so good.*

## B-Ball Time Soccer Season

By Robert LiVoti

The boys' seventh grade basketball team had a so-so season going 4-7. Each player worked as hard as they could both during games and practice.

Coach Spuches had everyone play at their best potential. The team was blown away the first two games because they weren't used to playing together. The third game was lost, but this was the game where the boys started to look like a team. The next game was a good win. They went on to win two more games against Bethpage and Wisdom, even though the following two games were lost. Happily, the next game survived a late comeback and a win was earned. The last game of the season, was played as hard as possible, but was lost to the powerhouse Woodland team.

Although there were a lot of games that should have been won, it was still a fun season.

By Kellyann Jorgensen and Elizabeth Mullin

Goal! I.T.M.S had a great start to their fall soccer season.

The 7 grade girls' soccer team did awesome for their first year playing school sports together. Their record was 5-2-2. "It truly was a pleasure to watch these athletically inclined girls develop into a very competitive, aggressive, and well rounded team. Each girl worked hard to improve their skill level, and knowledge of the sport. This group of hard working, committed girls demonstrated great morale, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm," Coach Roche said.

As for the players, they loved being on their first school sport team. They had a great time on the bus rides to the away games and they loved playing for Coach Roche. Coach Roche helped the 7th grade girls along and they had a very successful season.

## Football Fever Boys' Soccer

By Kelly Cembrale

The Giants and the Jets are two great football teams. The Jets' season was much better than the Giants..

The Giants won their first five games then came to a road block. This was due to poor defense after the first five games. In the end, their record was 8-8. They didn't make the playoffs.

The Jets season was much better. The first three Jets games were great and then came a small road block. After one loss, the Jets went back and forth, one loss and then one win. Even though this happened, they still had a great year. They went all the way to the playoffs and almost made the Super Bowl. They lost 30-17 to the Colts on January 24th. This ended their successful season. The Jets are ready to come back next year.

The Jets and Giants are both good teams who will try again next year.

By J. Conklin

This past season, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys' soccer team finished on a high note with three consecutive wins. The Bulldogs started out the season 0-4 playing some close games. The final five games of the year, the boys did not lose a game, tying two and winning the last three games vs. Bethpage, Woodland, and Hicksville.

Playing defense for the Bulldogs was Dylan Cranmer, Charlie Kim, Phil Sellitto, and Eric Quinones, with Matt Palumbo in goal. Midfielders were Brendan Butler, Joe Badolato, Braylan Cruz, Hendley Bernard, and Alex Quellhorst. At forward, the boys had Ryan Willoughby, Brian Gronenthal, Kevin Cuartres, Sahil Kumar, and Gabe Slusher.

The team got better each day and it was all due to their hard work.

## Time out with Teachers



Mrs. Brill was interviewed by Brian Scally.

**Q:** Why did you want to become a Spanish teacher?  
**A:** I always liked the language and did well with it in school.  
**Q:** What college did you attend?  
**A:** I attended Plattsburgh State and then Dowling for my master's degree.  
**Q:** Why did you want to teach at ITMMS?  
**A:** When I interviewed here, everyone was so friendly. I knew I'd like it here.  
**Q:** What do you teach besides Spanish?  
**A:** I teach French too, just not this year.  
**Q:** Do you have any hobbies?  
**A:** I like to read and hang out with my husband and son.  
**Q:** Do you have any pets?  
**A:** I have an Italian greyhound named Lilly Brill.



Christina Ragusa interviewed Ms. Pepper.

**Q:** Why did you decide to become the coach for the ITMMS kickline team?  
**A:** Before I was here, there was no team.  
**Q:** How do you come up with the routines for the performances?  
**A:** I design them based on my own dance experience.  
**Q:** When you were in middle school, were you on the kickline team?  
**A:** Yes. I was on it from grade 7-12 in East Islip.  
**Q:** What do you like most about kickline?  
**A:** I enjoy taking the girls to competitions and watching them perform.  
**Q:** What do you feel the difference is between cheerleading and kickline?  
**A:** The biggest difference is in cheer, they say the cheer out loud and in kickline, the girls just perform a dance.  
**Q:** How can a girl improve at kickline?  
**A:** Stretching often is important. Practicing in front of an audience like family and friends is helpful too.



Steven Giresi spent time with Mrs. McNally.

**Q:** Who are your favorite artists?  
**A:** Rembrandt and Monet.  
**Q:** What is your favorite painting?  
**A:** Monet's waterlilies is my favorite.  
**Q:** What college did you study art?  
**A:** I attended Adelphi and Studio Arts Center International in Italy.  
**Q:** What is your favorite art topic to teach?  
**A:** I enjoy teaching watercolor.  
**Q:** What grades do you teach?  
**A:** Currently, I teach fifth and seventh grade.  
**Q:** What is the most rewarding part of teaching?  
**A:** I enjoy seeing when students are happy about what they created.  
**Q:** What advice do you have for someone who wants to study art?  
**A:** You should create things all the time.  
**Q:** Who inspired you to become an artist?  
**A:** My father inspired me.

## Time with a N.Y.C. Principal

By Ashley Adler

Before winter break I interviewed Dr. Vives. He is the principal of a school in New York City. Mrs. Barfield invited him to come to class.

The two met at the New York State Science Conference (STANYS). The purpose of the meeting was for I.T.M.M.S. to donate books to his needy school in the city. Dr. Vives also wanted to tour the school to see how it operates in comparison to his. He also wanted to take some of our ideas back to his school.

I asked Dr. Vives, "What do you think of our school?"

He answered, "I think your school is fantastic. Everyone I came in contact with was pleasant and welcoming," Dr. Vives said.

He wanted to make a big shout out from his school to ours and send a special thanks to Mrs. Barfield, Mr. Bloom, and Mr. Wagner for making the visit possible.

"To all the children of Island Trees, you are the future, take full advantage of your education!"



Mr. Wagner, Dr. Vives, Mrs. Barfield & Mr. Bloom spent time discussing the schools' differences.

## Staying Safe

By Brionna Rogers

Troop 3224 performed a play on how to stay safe and keep away from strangers. The play's title is fittingly "Staying Safe."

It was performed for other Girl Scout troops, parents, and students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. The girls practiced every Friday night and sometimes they practiced on the weekends. They wanted their performances to be perfect.

The wonderful play was written by the troop leader, Regina McPherson. "Staying Safe" consisted of fairy tale and movie characters to teach others the importance of not speaking to strangers and other topics to keep kids

out of harm's way. The mini scenes that made up the play were from Snow White, Starsky and Hutch, Little Red Riding Hood, the Wizard of Oz, and My Big Fat Greek Wedding. "The girls have really done an amazing job," says the proud troop leader. The girls have been working on the play for a year and a half. Throughout that time, they perfected the play and performed for the children. All members of the troop were very dedicated to the play because they wanted to receive their "Silver Award."

The girls did an amazing job. Everyone is very proud of them. Great job girls!



After months of hard work, Troop 3224 have certainly earned their silver award.

•Students Who Perform Outstanding Tasks Lead Island Trees and are Getting Honored Today!•

Teachers and administrators of the Island Trees Memorial Middle School were asked to nominate a student whom they felt is outstanding. Nominators were encouraged to

choose students who help other students, perform well in the classroom, and show an excitement for learning. Nomination forms were circulated and the number of responses received

was overwhelming.

Many exceptional students were nominated. With the help of Mr. Bloom, Mr. Burns had the difficult task of selecting one student per grade.

Congratulations to all nominees and recipients. Teachers and students should be on the look out for the next round of nominations. You never know when you may end up in the spotlight.

### Ashley Garbacki: Excited Individual



5th Grade  
Nominated by Mrs. Nieves

Ashley Garbacki came to the middle school with excitement and enthusiasm. She is a fifth grader in my home base class who is truly a sweet and wonderful girl. She is hardworking and eager to help me and her fellow peers in whatever is needed or asked. On the first day of school she volunteered to be a buddy to one of the students in my class. Her care and compassion is evident in what she does to help him have a successful day. Ashley's beautiful smile helps to start my day here at the middle school. Congratulations Ashley!

### Ashley Jablonowski: Helping Hand



6th Grade  
Nominated by Ms. Previdi

Each morning is guaranteed to start of on a good note because Ashley Jablonowski is in my GOAL. Ashley has become one of my go-to-girls. She consistently asks how she can help and always does a thorough job on any task. If help isn't needed, one might find her studying, helping someone else or reading quietly. She is a bookworm and I love hearing about the stories she's reading. Any individual who is lucky enough to interact with Ashley would agree; she is a shining star.

### Megan Conley: Kind Hearted



7th Grade  
Nominated by Mrs. McNally

If you ever need a helping hand and Megan Conley is in your class, then help is never far away. I am so happy to nominate Megan for this award. Megan is a kind hearted, caring person who demonstrates what it means to be genuine and sincere on a daily basis. She willingly takes on tasks that other students turn away from. She picks up after herself without having to be told and assists others in putting their belongings away. She offers her assistance at every opportunity and does it all with a wonderful smile. Megan is a shining star and worthy of being in the spotlight.

### Andreea Stoita: Hardworking Scientist



Grade 8  
Nominated by Mr. Wagner

Andreea moved to Island Trees in late October. She had been taking advanced Biology in her previous school. In order to make up the six weeks of Earth Science and lab experience she missed, she came to extra help after school for four weeks straight. Not only has she "caught up" to the class, she is now near the top of it! Andreea has also impressed her classmates so much that they have recruited her for the Science Olympiad Team. She sings in the school chorus as well. In short, the middle school became an even better place when Andreea Stoita moved here.

## Student of the Arts

The Bulldog Jr. and I.T.M.M.S. are proud to present the *Student of the Arts Award*. Each edition of the school

newspaper will highlight a talented student from the Arts department to be recognized for his/her work in the

middle school. This may include a dedicated orchestra member, a hard working band member, an artist to

be on the lookout for, or a gifted chorus member. Students will be chosen by teachers in the Fine Arts Department.

### Justin Kampf: Solid Trombonist



Justin is the first chair trombonist in both Grade 7/8 Concert Band and Jazz Band. His strong senses of rhythm and pitch make him a natural leader in the bass section of the band. All students in band class benefit from Justin's solid playing and diligent preparation. Justin also plays drum set in Blues Band. It is here that his rhythmic sense is most valuable. Justin is able to listen and sense when minor changes in tempo or pulse

are needed and can adjust in the middle of songs.

Beyond his musical skills, Justin is a great kid. He is easy to talk to, has a great smile and is always ready to pitch in and have fun.

We congratulate Justin on this honor and encourage him to keep working and improving his music skills. He is truly a leader and a gifted musician.

Nominated by Mr. Guido



Justin at his best.

# Students In Action 8

## Thankful for All

By A. McKenna

During this Thanksgiving season, the members of the Kiwanis Builders Club held their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

The members of the Builders Club asked for support from the entire school by having a school-wide GOAL room contest to see which GOAL could bring in the most food. For the

second year in a row, Mr. Spuches' GOAL room won the contest and they were provided a bagel breakfast, courtesy of the Builders Club.

The donation of food was simply overwhelming this year! With the support of the entire Island Trees Memorial Middle School community, 650 pounds of food was donated to



The club prepares the warm meals..



All the toys were donated to those in need.

## Food Fills Hearts

By R. Bloom

The school's FCCLA-Home and Careers Club and the Holiday Bake Club worked together to cook meals and bake cookies for war veterans living in the Vets Home for the 2009 holiday season.

Located in Levittown, New York, Vets Home serves a residence for war veterans and is run by Beacon House in conjunction with the Veterans Administration. Under the direction of Ms. Liebman, the students in both clubs

made salad, lasagna, and cookies for the veterans.

Mrs. Gravina delivered the food to the veterans living in Vets Home. The residents of Vets Home were extremely grateful for the donations and thanked the students of Island Trees Memorial Middle School for their generosity and caring during the holiday season.

Thank you to Mrs. Liebman and Mrs. Gravina for coordinating this activity and helping those in need.

## Toy Drive 2009

By Steven Giresi

This holiday season the school's Kiwanis Builders Club, led by their advisor Ms. McKenna, held a toy drive to collect toys for needy children throughout Long Island.

Large donation boxes were decorated like presents by club president, Hayley Fazio and club treasurer, Paige Fazio. These boxes were placed on the stage in the cafeteria, and the toy drive was made into a school-wide competition to see which grade could bring in the most

toys. Students dropped off their toys in the box for his/her grade level.

The toy drive was a great opportunity for students to help make this holiday special for needy and homeless children on Long Island. All of the toys were donated to the Toys of Hope organization, which provides toys, books, clothing, activities and other items to children on Long Island that otherwise would not have access to them.

Thanks for all the generous donations.

## Happy Holidays for Local Seniors

By J. Pitzer

The children in Mrs. Koester's, Ms. Wainwright's and Ms. Pepper's classes gave the senior citizens at the Fulton Common Care Center in East Meadow a wonderful holiday surprise.

The children were given holiday cards and asked to decorate the envelopes and write a special holiday message inside. The cards were then given out during the Fulton Commons

holiday party by Mrs. Pitzer, whose father is a resident there.

All of the senior citizens were overwhelmed with the inspirational messages the children wrote in each card. They asked Mrs. Pitzer to thank the children and make sure that they knew how much the cards meant to them. It was truly a special holiday surprise for all

Island Harvest. The members of Builders Club, along with their club advisor Ms. McKenna, worked hard to sort and pack all of the food into boxes.

Hopefully, this abundant food donation helped allow many needy families on Long Island to have a delicious Thanksgiving meal.



Breakfast with Santa was a huge success.

## Ho! Ho! Ho!

By Ashley Adler

At Breakfast with Santa, there are a lot of things to do. You can have your face painted, get tattoos, participate in a raffle and you can sit on Santa's lap. You can take pictures with all of Santa's elves, Mrs. Claus and Santa.

Breakfast with Santa only costs five dollars per person. The Student Council works hard to make it a pleasurable time for everyone who goes. Thanks to Mrs. Raskind and Mr. Rienecker, it was a success! There were bagels, snacks and assorted drinks. Breakfast with Santa takes place every year, the Saturday morning before Christmas.

Preschoolers and elementary school kids were all invited to come with their families. This event was held on Saturday, December 19 and was the perfect way to celebrate the holidays!

## Holiday Hearts

By J. Pitzer

One hundred thirty members of the ITMMS faculty, staff and student body came together and helped three of our own district families enjoy the holidays.

Each family received gift cards, clothing, toys and books to make their holiday special. Ms. Briscoe's and Ms. Bergamino's classes joined in by donating huge baskets of toiletries. Mrs. Koester's class donated three huge sacks of games, clothing and toys. Even Mrs. Mills

and Mrs. Toman from Sparke School helped out.

The outpouring of generosity and love was wonderful. The families were overwhelmed and asked that each and every person know that they appreciated all the kindness that was shown to them.

Many thanks to everyone who not only shared what was in their wallets, but what was in their hearts as well. The ITMMS faculty and staff always come through.

Mrs. Anderson	Mrs. Easterbrook	Mrs. Kaufman
Ms. Ecock	Ms. Kennedy	Mrs. Zegel
Ms. Andreu	Ms. Eriksen	Mrs. Koester
Ms. Antar	Mrs. Eisenberg	Mrs. Koester's Class
Ms. Aponte	Ms. Faiella	Mrs. Krull
Mrs. Barfield	Ms. P. Fazio	Mrs. Lashin
Mrs. Benjamin	Ms. E. Fazio	Dr. Leone
Ms. Bergamino	Mrs. E. Fazio	Ms. Liebman
Ms. Bergamino's Class	Ms. H. Fazio	Ms. Longhway
Ms. Bogsted	Ms. Finelli	Mr. Lucchi
Ms. Boyle	Ms. Fisher	Ms. Magnus
Mr. Brennan	Ms. Fontana	Ms. Martinez
Mrs. Brill	Mrs. Friedman	Ms. Mastrantonio
Ms. Briscoe	Mrs. Frumberg	Mrs. McCauley
Ms. Briscoe's Class	Ms. Gilday	Mrs. McCormack
Mrs. Bruno	Mr. Gilmartin	Mrs. McGroary
Mrs. Buckley	Mr. Gonzalez	Ms. McKenna
Mrs. Bunster	Ms. Gould	McNally Family
Mr. Burns	Mrs. Grasso	Mrs. McMamara
Ms. Busam	Mr. Guido	Mr. Micelli
Mr. Byrnes	Ms. Gustafson	Ms. Miller
Mr. Cahoon	Mrs. Harouche	Mrs. Mills
Mrs. Castellano	Ms. Hassell	Ms. C. Murphy
Mrs. Castro	Mrs. Hatzopoulos	Ms. K. Murphy
Mr. Conklin	Ms. Hendrickson	Ms. Naughton
Connolly Family	Ms. Hermann	Ms. Nickel
Ms. Citrano	Mrs. Hoffman	Mrs. Nieves
Ms. Croteau	Mrs. Huller	Mrs. Oliveto
Mrs. DeVita	Mr. Iorio	Mr. O'Loughlin
Ms. Doherty	Ms. Kaiser	Ms. Olsen
Mrs. O'Neill	Ms. Sherry	Dr. Sage
Ms. Ottoson	Ms. Siniscalchi	Mrs. Ritter
Ms. Pepper	Ms. Skoblicki	Ms. Villano
Ms. Perez	Mrs. Sorce	Ms. Rocchio
Dr. Perlotto	Mr. Spuches	Ms. Wainwright
Mrs. Pickard	Mrs. Steele	Mrs. Rochon
Mrs. Pitzer	Ms. Swartz	Mrs. Weiss
Mrs. Pistocchi	Ms. Tarpy	Ms. Samuelsen
Ms. Powers	Mrs. Toman	Mrs. Santoro
Ms. Previdi	Ms. Torrales	Mr. Sarchie
Mr. Rao	Ms. Travers	Ms. Sayet
Ms. Raskind	Mrs. Triolo	Mr. Scaglia
Mr. Rezek	Ms. Vasco	Dr. Sherry
		Ms. Young