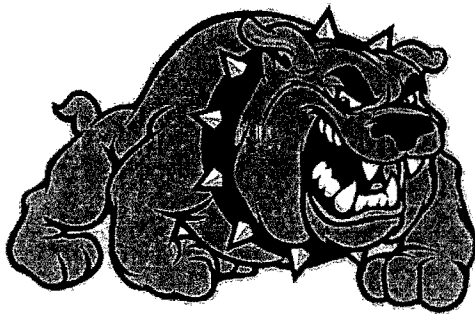


ISLAND TREES
HIGH SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT
HIGHLIGHTS
2010-2011



Job Well Done!

**Island Trees High School
Departmental Accomplishments
2010-2011**

Fine and Performing Arts

- 6 out of 11 students statewide selected for Electronic Music Composition Showcase in Rochester, NY.
- Both HS Chorus and HS Orchestra received "Superior" ratings at the High Note Festival in Jackson, NJ.
- Band participated in Newsday Marching Band Festival at Hofstra University.
- Fall theater production of "Little Women."
- Spring musical production of "Godspell."
- HS Talent Show featured over 30 acts.
- 3 students selected to Long Island String Festival Association.
- 8 students selected to Nassau Music Educators All-County ensembles
- 42 students participated in NYSSMA Solo Festivals.
- 21st Annual Faculty Benefit Concert raised funds for music scholarships
- Creative Arts Fair featured music performances, photo and art projects
- 9 students selected for Art Supervisors All-County Art Exhibition at Adelphi University.
- HS Band participated in Levittown Memorial Day Parade.
- Annual Performing Arts Banquet awarded certificates, medals and scholarships to outstanding students.
- Peter Gibbons was awarded the "2011 Nassau BOCES Educational Foundation's Education Partner" at their annual gala with 400 people in attendance.

Foreign Language

- Hector Aristy hosted a student-teacher.
- All of the Spanish teachers hosted student observers all year long.
- Department members began to use Castle Learning and were able to share assignments.
- Some department members attended a Web 2.0 workshop
- Hector Aristy became CPR certified and finished his Masters in School Leadership and Technology

- Spanish-speaking department members worked with guidance and administration to reach out to the Spanish-speaking community and provided translation services when needed.
- Hannah Klein and Hector Aristy took Advanced French and Spanish classes to MOMA to get a first hand look at the works of the artists they were studying.
- Hector Aristy created a web page so his students can blog in Spanish.
- Debbie Kilstein organized an assembly that included our student's parents and grandparents who gave first-hand accounts of what it was like to live under dictators. Some parents spoke entirely in Spanish and our students translated for them.
- Cindy Eisenberg worked with Beth Roemer to create a list of SAT words that have French words that sound or look the same and added the SAT word of the day to her 11th grade curriculum.
- We welcomed Lauren DiNapoli, Hannah's leave replacement and worked closely with her as she adjusted to life at IT.
- Hannah Klein has been very busy planning a possible trip to Quebec in the Fall of 2011.
- The department is in the process of establishing a Foreign Language Honor Society that we hope to begin in the 2011-12 school year.

Mathematics

- Wrote curriculum map for Algebra 2 & Trigonometry, Essentials in Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry
- Wrote departmental resources for the new Algebra 2 & Trig course which was taught for the first time this school year.
- We established 2 new courses which will be offered for college credit through CW Post for the first time in 2011-12; Statistics and Pre Calculus
- Instituted a Math Lab during all lunch periods, where all students are able to go to and receive extra-help from a math teacher.
- Took 11th and 12th graders to "Eureka" field trip.

Guidance

- Implemented the first 9th Grade Advanced Meeting at the HS
- Graham Radcliffe worked to bring “Core Course GPA” to the high school for student-athletes and then hosted the first NCAA Night at the HS
- Counselors visited many colleges/ universities including:
 - Iona
 - Marist
 - Fordham
 - Manhattan
 - Hofstra
 - Stony Brook
 - Molloy
 - Boston College
 - Boston University
 - Lehigh
 - Lafayette
 - Holy Cross
 - Quinnipiac
 - Emerson
 - Providence
 - Clarke
 - UConn
- Graham Radcliffe: Nassau County Coach of the Year for Soccer
- Held two AP Workshops - one in August, one in May
- Administered PSATs for the first time during the school day to 10th and 11th graders - and held workshops with guest speakers for the 9th and 12th graders on this day
- Hosted Senior College Night, Junior College Night, Financial Aid Night, Senior Awards Night
- On-Site Admissions - 8 colleges/ universities participated this year. Over the course of the 7 days, we processed 200+ applications, received \$8,400 in fee waivers and ONE MILLION dollars in scholarship money was offered to students who participated that week.

English

- English Teachers attended National and Regional AP Workshops to gain best practices and improve instruction.
- 9th and 10th Graders enjoyed two live Shakespeare performances by local theatre groups.
- 9th and 11th Graders enjoyed two author visits in October.
- The department hosted an array of student teachers and observers.
- The department took 25 student writers to the annual Ethnic Pen Workshop at Bayshore High School.
- Independent reading was at an all-time high, with students devouring *The Hunger Game* series and other high-interest titles now available.
- The Department is currently doing Curriculum Work on our 9th and 10th grade courses to include the New Common Core Standards. They are also developing two new senior courses for next year: College Process and Values.
- New York State English Council recognized the Renaissance Fair as a Program of Excellence in its successful fourth year. Claudia Connor, along with her co-lead teachers, will be presenting at NYSEC Annual Conference in Albany in October.
- 100 10AP Prep students and 3rd Grade students participated in an In2Books Literacy Exchange Program which culminated in a Literary Celebration in June.
- New York State English Council awarded our In2Books Literacy Pen Pal Exchange Program with a \$500.00 grant to extend the program to include all seniors and all third grade students at Sparke Elementary.
- Lori Christensen, Rob Kohl, Jaclyn Nicoletto, and Claudia Connor organized a successful *Great Gatsby* Day Celebration for our 11th Graders.
- Lauren Marino, Lori Christensen, and Charlie Lipp implemented a successful Modern Novel Curriculum, complete with an innovative Senior Memory Book Project.
- Tina Mastrantonio developed an exciting new Humanities Final Project for her seniors.
- Jaclyn Nicoletto's 11th Graders held a successful debate in the Little Theatre.
- Creative Writing teacher Jennifer Sherry, along with other members of the department, encouraged students to participate in various contests, resulting in major wins in the following contests: PTSA Reflections Contest, Nassau Reading Council Personal Narrative Contest, Long Island Language Arts Council, Creative Communications Contest, What about Peace Contest, Intellectual Freedom Contest, and The Nassau County Librarian's Association Contest.

- At NYSEC's annual conference, Lori Christensen and Beth Roemer presented a workshop on raising the interest level for high school literature.

Business and Technology

- Rob Paletta and Kieran Keyser observed a program at Herricks High School called "Virtual Enterprise."
- Evelyn Gorelik helped to plan and to organize meetings of the School-To-Business Advisory Board.
- The wood shop was productive again this year with many students successfully completing wonderful projects.

Social Studies

- The Island Trees Social Studies Department was awarded Blue Star Status by the Financial Literacy Coalition. More than 85% of the 12th passed the Financial Literacy Test. 5th year in a row.
- Offered new AP Economics course and new AP United States Politics course.
- AP Economic students visited Central Park in NYC to research the underground economy that exists there.
- 9 AP World History students saw the King Tut exhibit in NYC.
- 10 AP World History students went on a field trip to the Pompeii exhibit at the Times Discovery Zone in NYC.
- Presentation by Dr. Blauvelt on Civil War Collections to all 11th grade students.
- In conjunction with the English, Math, and Science Department was awarded the English Council's award of excellence for the Renaissance Faire.
- Had a group of Economic students win 1st place in Newsday's Fall 2010 stock market game.
- Further utilized Castle Learning across grade levels and myteacher.com to develop websites for the 10AP classes.

Science

- Placed 18th out of 60 teams in the annual Science Olympiad event.
- Robotics team "Robodawgs" made it to the quarter finals in the FIRST competition
- Doubled the enrollment in AP Biology.
- Visited DNA Learning Center to perform various state of the art DNA labs.
- Visited the world famous Bodies exhibit for the first time with all the biology classes.
- Physics classes performed physics experiments in Dorney Park.
- Biology classes witnessed the hatching of baby chicks to enhance reproduction unit.
- Earth Science RP classes visited the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium.
- Chemistry classes illustrated important chemical concepts through kitchen chemistry labs such as making ice cream.
- Prepared for 3rd AP offering in science-AP Chemistry.

Health and Physical Education

- Introduced a new physical fitness assessment program - Fitness Gram
- Introduced Core Course GPA to the school district to help our students track their grades for admission to Division I, II and III colleges
- Hoops for Heart Fund Raiser - Raised over \$3000 for the American Heart Association
- Awarded Nassau Zone Outstanding Physical Education award to three seniors
- Organized and ran well attended intramural programs to coincide with the physical education curriculum.
 - Badminton
 - Volleyball
 - European Handball
- Assisted with several fundraising activities including AHA ball tournament, the Joe Masi Memorial Volleyball game, and the Cageball game.
- Will be organizing and running the Senior Field Day on June 13th
- Established a relationship with the Nassau County Police Department and arranged to have a new guest speaker talk about the social host law and consequences for poor decision making.

Special Education

- Special Education teachers attended two IEP writing webinars.
- Through the efforts of the teachers in the Special Education department, along with other colleagues, a very successful Joe Masi Memorial Volleyball Game was held for the second year. Thusly, scholarships for worthy students were distributed in Joe's name again at this year's Senior Awards night by Mr. and Mrs. Masi.
- Elizabeth Thielemann received a PhD in Language, Literacy and Learning from Fordham University.
- Liz Thielemann and Marie Timmons were co-advisors to the SADD club and arranged Grip reaper Day.
- Traci Durante, Marianne Slevin, Valerie Potts, Christine Primrose, Marie Timmons and Christine Davies, attended workshops and training on differentiated instruction in various subject areas.
- Marianne Slevin attended a workshop in the Wilson Program and transitional planning for high school students.
- The lovely announcement board and calendar outside the main office is the work of Marianne Slevin, who updates the hallway bulletin board monthly.
- Carol Siegel attended The Perkins Fund meetings, the WECA meeting and the Dream Job Reception in her role of School-To-Business coordinator.
- Katie Kilfoil and Carol Siegel arranged field trips for students in their discipline areas. Earth Science students enjoyed a first-ever trip to the Museum of Natural History and Career Advantage students engaged in career exploration at Republic Airport, UL Labs and Oheka Castle.
- Marie Timmons, Christine Primrose, and Val Potts attended a workshop on SIM Strategies.
- Traci Durante served for the first time on the Attendance Review Board.
- Katie also coordinated a field trip for her Earth Science class to the Museum of Natural History.
- Elizabeth Thielemann joined the discipline committee this year and has been very successful in learning the ropes and handling discipline referrals.

Family and Consumer Science

- Gourmet Foods students baked and donated desserts to help raise money for the Joe Masi Memorial Fundraiser. They are also baking this week to donate to the Daniel Fuentes Memorial Scholarship.
- Gourmet students baked and donated green frosted cupcakes in honor of *The Great Gatsby* day celebration.
- Former Island Trees graduates and FACS students Ryan Hollett and Joseph Nilsen visited Eileen Purrman's Gourmet Foods classes. They shared their experiences about becoming chefs and working in the culinary industry. They also prepared home-made pasta and sauces with the aid of Mrs. Purrman's students. An article was featured in *The Bulldog* and *Levittown Tribune*.
- Douglas Rigo showed off his culinary skills as guest chef in the Gourmet classes. He prepared his famous "Bambi Bread".
- Eileen Purrman's Food and Fitness classes and Melissa Iglie's Spanish classes participated in a collaborative Latin American food unit. They prepared and sampled lighter versions of delicious Latin American foods.
- Child Development students hosted an in-class "nursery school" for children aged 2-4 years. They carried out engaging lessons and age-appropriate activities with the children.
- Child Development students created and illustrated children's books.