



Longwood Life

community unity...be a part of the pride!

Fall 2016

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WELCOMING Students to the 2016-2017 School Year!

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael R. Lonergan and the Board of Education welcomed approximately 9,000 students on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 to the new school year. Students started their first day filled with excitement as they reunited with friends and prepared for the many new adventures that lie ahead. Since returning to school, our students are excelling in academics, the arts, and athletics. We welcome our newest members of the Longwood family, the fresh faces of the Class of 2030!

National Merit Semifinalist and Five Commended Students Announced



Principal Scott Schuster and
Maciej Wlodek.

The District is pleased to announce that senior Maciej Wlodek has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Maciej will continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring. Less than 1% of high school graduating seniors in the U.S. will qualify as a semifinalist.

Additionally, five seniors Emily Berry, Zerrin Kamal, Terence Lin, Joshua Radford and Olivia Scott were named Commended Students, placing among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“To be named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist or Commended Student is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, as well as their parents and teachers,” said High School Principal Scott Schuster. “These students have displayed academic excellence, leadership, and strong work ethics throughout their high school careers. We are proud to have them as members of our school community.”



L-r: Terence Lin, Emily Berry, Zerrin Kamal,
Olivia Scott and Joshua Radford.

A Message from the Board of Education

Daniel Tomaszewski, President and Frank Muraca, Vice President

Maureen E. Silvestri, Paul Infranco, Penni Blizzard-McGrath, Philip Reany, Jr. and David W. Pfister

Welcome to another school year. Since opening school doors on September 6, our students are enjoying an exciting new year of learning.

At the start of each school year, the Board adopts a specific theme and encourages students throughout the District to submit an essay. This year, we've chosen two separate themes; grades K-6 "Why is it important for me to make good decisions?" and for grades 7-12 "How do the decisions I make now, while in school, matter to my future?"

To open each board meeting, two students are chosen to read aloud their reflections on the board's chosen theme. We look forward to this annual tradition and are truly proud of our students' thoughtful and insightful remarks.

At a recent meeting, the Board of Education was proud to recognize past board member, William K. Miller, with the Carl Verdi Community Pride Award. Presented annually, this award recognizes someone who has built lasting bridges between the school district and the community. Mr. Miller served as an active member of the Longwood Board for 24 years and remains a strong advocate for excellence in public education. He has been a member of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board since 2007 and currently serves as their vice president.

We look forward to the many accomplishments our students will achieve in the months ahead and encourage you to attend Board of Education meetings. An engaged community is an invaluable resource and we look forward to all we can accomplish together.

We wish a wonderful school year for you and your children.



Carl Verdi Community Award recipient William K. Miller (center) is joined by (l-r) Vice President Frank Muraca, President Daniel Tomaszewski; Board Members Paul Infranco, David W. Pfister, Maureen E. Silvestri, Philip Reany, Jr., Penelope Blizzard-McGrath and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael R. Loneran.



Past Carl Verdi Community Pride Award recipients join Mr. Miller; (l-r) Carl Verdi, Thomas Lyon and Paul Infranco.

A Message from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael R. Loneran



The school year is off to a great start and we hope our students and families are all settling into what I know will be another successful year. I am pleased to report that our students are, once again, achieving high levels of excellence in academics, sports, music and community service.

Our pride is a tribute to our hard-working Board of Education, administration, teachers, faculty, and staff, and the strong support we continue to enjoy from our parents and our school community. Increasing parent and community involvement is an area of emphasis in our schools and continues to be one of the goals of our Board of Education. We are pleased to see that parent support has been on the rise in our district.

Children experience higher levels of success when their parents are involved in their school and education. Whether that is by attending school events, keeping connected with school staff, staying updated through school communication, attending parent/teacher meetings or helping with homework. Being involved in your PTA is a great way to stay connected and have a strong voice in education.

Successful students need their parents to be invested in their education and parental involvement is critical to our students' performance. Parents must continue to be active and engaged throughout the year.

I am truly proud of our students, our schools, and our school community and I welcome all parents and guardians to remain active in their children's future. Let us all continue to pull together to keep this momentum going.

Board Holds Annual Reorganization Meeting



Dr. Lonergan serves as witness as District Clerk Judith Rice administers the Oath of Office to David W. Pfister and Philip Reany, Jr.

At the annual reorganization meeting for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education elected Daniel Tomaszewski as president. Mr. Tomaszewski is beginning his 14th year of service on the board and seventh year as president. Frank Muraca will serve as vice president for the second consecutive year.

The meeting also included the swearing in of Philip Reany, Jr. and newly elected board member David W. Pfister for three-year terms.

The board also approved the remainder of the reorganizational meeting's agenda which included the appointment of the district clerk, treasurer, claims auditor, as well as appointing professional service providers. Additionally, the board appointed members to the Committees on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

Longwood Board Sets Goals for 2016-2017 School Year

Each summer, the Board of Education and superintendent discuss the progress made on the previous year's board goals and sets new objectives for the upcoming school year.

"The Board and Central Administration look forward to the opportunity where we review the previous school year and work together to set new goals that are symbolic of the District's mission and vision," Dr. Lonergan commented.

Goal # 1: Continue to enrich academic support systems and intervention services that will enhance students' academic achievements K-12 – The Student Success Initiative

- Continue to focus resources on providing our students and staff with the support to improve student academic performance and their social-emotional development
- Engage teachers with additional academic intervention strategies that will promote student success
- Provide parents with strategies to promote consistent student attendance in school and regular communication with their child's teacher(s)

Goal # 2: Promote and support a comprehensive health and safety prevention program K-12, emphasizing alcohol and substance abuse prevention and education

- Enhance current programs K-12 addressing students decision-making skills
- Provide current information to students and parents on alcohol and substance abuse, enhancing our current curriculum K-12
- Establish an after school alcohol and substance abuse program for students and parents

Goal # 3: Conduct a school community-wide parent and staff school district survey, the results of which will be shared with our community and staff

- Contract with a survey developer to construct and implement a school community climate survey
- Board of Education will meet with developer to recommend survey questions and content areas of interest
- Review results of the survey
- Share results with entire school community
- Board of Education to consider Policy reflecting the results of the survey

Goal #4: Continue to advocate for increased legislative assistance for the many important educational issues facing school districts today

- Continue to involve students, staff, and community to advocate for education reform
- Focus the Board of Education's Legislative Committee on the inequitable "2% Tax Cap Legislation" leading to modification
- Encourage districtwide support for legislative change



Board members Paul Infranco and Maureen E. Silvestri check off each of the Board of Education goals for the 2015-2016 school year. Each goal was successfully met and exceeded expectations.

Welcoming Administrative Leaders Into New Roles



Dr. Tracy Adams has been appointed as middle school principal. Dr. Adams began her teaching career at a New York City Charter School in 2000. In 2002, she joined Longwood where she served as a teacher at Ridge Elementary School for four years before her appointment as assistant principal at West Middle Island Elementary School. In 2012, she was named assistant principal of the middle school. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Science Interdisciplinary Studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook; earned her master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from New York University, and holds her Advanced Certificate in Educational Computing and Certification Specialization in School Building Administration from Stony Brook University and the College of Saint Rose, respectively. In the spring of 2016, Dr. Adams received her Doctorate in Education Administration and Supervision from St. John's University.



Sam Ahmed, assistant principal at the high school, received his bachelor's in Education from New York City College of Technology and his master's in School Building Leadership from Touro College. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Ahmed served as assistant principal for the Transit Tech Career and Technical Education High School in Brooklyn. During his tenure, Mr. Ahmed dedicated much of his time to developing strong relationships with various computer industries and corporations which led to successful school to business partnerships for students. Mr. Ahmed was also responsible for the development of the A+ Computer Engineering program where he served as the lead instructor.



On October 1, 2016, **Carlos Falcón** was named the new assistant principal at the middle school. Since 2009, Mr. Falcón has served Longwood High School as a Spanish teacher, as well as a Late Afternoon Program (LAP) teacher. Throughout his tenure at the high school, he served as Class of 2018 advisor, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) coach, athletic academic supervisor and served on the high school's Technology Committee and Response To Intervention Academic Committee. Mr. Falcón received his bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University at Albany, his master's degree in Teaching from Stony Brook University and earned his school building leader certification from St. John's University.



Lisa Mato has been appointed as Director of Special Programs & Data Reporting after serving as middle school principal since 2004. In 2001, Ms. Mato began her career at Longwood as assistant principal at Ridge Elementary School. Prior to her tenure at Longwood, she served as a math teacher and math learning specialist at Brentwood School District. She holds a School Building/School District Leader advanced certification from Stony Brook University, a master's in Secondary Education and a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Dowling College.



Mary D. Richardson has been named Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration after serving as Director of Compensatory Education at Longwood since 2007. Mrs. Richardson served as assistant principal at Coram Elementary School from 2000-2002 until she took a position at Bayport-Blue Point School. As Coordinator of Instructional Support Services, she oversaw management of all state and federal funded grants, provided leadership in student evaluation, testing, and K-12 Academic Intervention Services programs. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Molloy College, a master's degree in Education from Dowling College, and an advanced graduate certificate in School District Administration from Stony Brook University.

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Named



Richard A. Kollar has been appointed as the new Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, replacing Michael Gargiulo.

Mr. Kollar has more than three decades of experience as an educator and administrator. He began his career in 1972 as an educator in the Sachem Central School District where he taught Social Studies for 14 years. After serving as Social Studies Department Chair, he was appointed as the district's Assistant Personnel Administrator. Mr. Kollar later moved into the position of District Personnel Administrator and in 1992 was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; a position he held until his retirement in 2002. Following his career in Sachem, Mr. Kollar went on to work in a number of Long Island school districts as an interim administrator before coming to Longwood.

"We are delighted to have someone with Mr. Kollar's credentials serve in the interim position," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Lonergan. "His substantial experience and interpersonal skills make him ideally suited for this position."

Mr. Kollar has been a resident of the Longwood Community since 1975 with all three of his sons attending the Longwood School District.

"My sons flourished in the Longwood Schools, both in academics as well as in interscholastic athletics," said Mr. Kollar. "I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve the District."

New Teacher Orientation Welcomes a Host of New Faces



To help prepare Longwood's newest teachers for their roles, the District held new teacher orientation, which included a series of professional development workshops. The District's newest faculty were briefed on personnel matters, mentoring, instructional technology resources, PowerSchool/PowerTeacher and cooperative learning techniques.

As part of orientation, the teachers toured the District's vast geographical area and learned about the rich history of Longwood by Board of Education member Paul Infranco and retired CSEA clerk Fran Nosek. The tour included locations such as Bartlett Pond Park, Longwood Estate, historic main street in Yaphank and German Gardens.

With Thanks and Gratitude to Our Retirees!

At the end of the 2016 school year, the District paid tribute to our dedicated staff who retired.

We wish them the very best in their future endeavors and are continually grateful for their service and dedication to the students of Longwood.

It is in large part due to their commitment and excellence that we are able to continue in our mission to empower every learner to grow, excel and be successful contributors to the local and global community.

Congratulations to:

Paula Arezzi	Joseph Lazzaro
Myra Bixler	Deborah Lilly
Donna Brendle	Carol Luster-Pemberton
Diane Brown	Austin Manghan
Rosann Burkert	John Marsh
Sharon Carey	Norma Jean Nally
Rosemarie D'Auria	Maris Paolini
Jeffrey Deptola	Francine Pecchillo
Lorriane DiBartolo	Patricia Shaw
Denise Doyen	Cathy Short
Laurel Fabian	Janet Smiles
Vicki Feldman	Ana Solorzano
Sharon Feldman	Nicolas Soriano
Gloriann Felicetta	Kathleen Stevens
Susan Hansen	Linda Vitale
Anne Hewson	Arlene Worthington
Margaret Kennedy	Roberta Zaccaria
Rosemarie Kennedy	



A Homecoming to Remember!

This year's homecoming festivities were a great success! From the pep rally to the parade and Homecoming game, our community celebrated Longwood Pride, Heart, and Spirit!



Good-bye Polystyrene Tray . . . Meet the New Compostable Plate

As part of the District's ongoing efforts to cut down on waste, the Child Nutrition Department is now serving meals on round compostable and biodegradable plates.

All Styrofoam trays have been replaced with compostable plates made from renewable material and resources. By removing Styrofoam trays from our landfills and waterways, we can make major changes toward a greener environment.

Benefits of the new plate include:

- Reduces school's carbon footprint
- Sturdier and smarter design
- Made from recycled paper
- Certified compostable
- Drives nationwide "zero waste"

The new molded fiber plates, made from 100 percent pre-consumer paper scraps, are also used to teach students about the benefits of composting, waste reduction and renewable resources.



Emergency Closings and Delayed Openings

In case of adverse weather and/or road conditions, schools may be closed or delayed by two or three hours, depending on the severity of the weather. The early morning closings are made as soon as possible and residents are advised via the following radio and television stations:

**News 12 Long Island
(Cablevision)**

WALK 97.5 FM • WBLI 106.1 FM

Emergency closing and delay information is also posted on the District website at

www.longwood.k12.ny.us

We're on Facebook!

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance communication within the community, the District has officially joined Facebook.

"We are excited to share important announcements and news about our schools and students with our community through the Facebook platform throughout the year," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael R. Lonergan.

The new Facebook page can be viewed by searching "Longwood Central School District" in the search function on Facebook.

In addition to "liking" the Facebook page, residents are also encouraged to follow the District on Twitter for important announcements, student accomplishments, and news. Follow us at @Longwoodcsd.

"We are constantly sharing a wealth of information on our website, www.longwoodcsd.org, and hope the Facebook page and Twitter feed are just two more ways in which we can strengthen communication with our school community," said Dr. Lonergan.



Find us on
Facebook

Stay Up to Date with Upcoming Events and Important News!
Visit the District Website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us

Longwood Central Schools

Board of Education

Daniel Tomaszewski, President
Frank Muraca, Vice President
Maureen E. Silvestri
Paul Infranco
Penni Blizzard-McGrath
Philip Reany, Jr.
David W. Pfister

Judith Rice, *District Clerk*

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michael R. Lonergan

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