

# FARMINGDALE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

*"We Shape the Future"*

## CLASSROOM POINTERS



Fall/Spring 2021-22

Volume 38 Number 1

### ***RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE***

As part of our continued commitment to the students and the Farmingdale community, The Farmingdale Federation of Teachers awarded more than \$6,000.00 in scholarships and prizes to ten deserving students at ceremonies held across the district.

"We are proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of our Farmingdale students and to support them as they continue to pursue their future endeavors," stated FFT President Cordelia Anthony.

Each year students are recognized not only for excellence in academic achievements, but also for involvement in athletics or social clubs, and for demonstrating school spirit and outstanding citizenship in our school community.

"Our scholarship program is an important part of our union's core," explained Emily Geiger, FFT Second Vice President." The awards reflect the work ethic and values we try to instill in our students."

#### **HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS**

Awards and checks for \$1000.00 were presented to:

**Eve Eskin Memorial FFT Scholarship:**

Vanessa Espinosa

**FFT Scholarships:**

Sara Hughes

Kate McLaughlin

**David A. Bresee Memorial FFT  
Scholarship for Science:**

Ben Hoffman

**FFT Valedictorian Award:**

Kevin Piraino

#### **EIGHTH and FIFTH GRADE AWARDS**

Awards and checks for \$250.00 were presented to:

**FFT Student Awards:**

**Howitt Middle School:**

Nicholas Zito

**Albany Avenue:**

Sofia Hatsios

**Northside:**

Savannah Stroud

**Saltzman East Memorial:**

Valeria Flores Bravo

**Woodward Parkway:**

Samantha White

***Congratulations to the award recipients and to all of the graduates  
on achieving such significant milestones!***

# Jumping Back into Service

As the world began to reopen this past school year, opportunities returned for the FFT members to support charities, causes, and community events. Setting an example of character education and service for our students has always been a core value of the FFT.

Fall 2021

**The FFT Making Strides Team** was back at the boardwalk last October! Our FFT professionals, joined by Superintendent Defendini and BOE President Michael Goldberg, walked and donated to support the American Cancer Society's goal of finding a cure for breast cancer. This year the team was also joined by a new group of walkers, the Farmingdale High School JV Cheerleaders. Under the supervision of their coach, teacher Kathleen Gaghan, the squad brought their energy and spirit to the early morning event. "I think it's important for the student athletes to not only cooperate and work as a cheerleading team, but to work together in service to the greater community," stated Coach Gaghan. The student athletes raised almost \$800.00 which was donated in connection to the FFT Team. Together, over \$3500.00 was raised for research and patient care. Emily Geiger, FFT Second VP and team leader commented, "After taking a fundraising hit during the past two years of Covid, we are so inspired by the number of walkers and volunteers that returned to support the ACS." We are happy to encourage our students to join in this worthwhile event.

To commemorate **Veterans Day 2021**, students created beautiful cards and artwork in which messages of thanks were written for our local Veterans. Sixth graders participated during their Civic Engagement period, while all students had an opportunity to join the project during a Student Council meeting after school. The creations were distributed locally to VFW Post 516 in Farmingdale, as well as to the Veterans' Hospital in Northport.



*Pictured: Some of the members of the 2021 FFT Making Strides Team along with the J.V Cheer squad.*



Teachers and students from every school pitched in to help those in need. This year once again, the FFT collected and **donated food** to the St. Killian Outreach Program. The collection boxes were placed in each building for the food drive which assists local families in need, especially during the holiday season. A monetary donation was also made to Island Harvest which serves the larger Long Island community.



*Pictured: Northside teacher Melissa Ciuffo collecting donated foods for St. Killian.*

**WINTER/SPRING  
2022**



The FFT wasted no time in taking action for the people of **Ukraine**. Former Farmingdale teacher and FFT officer Christine Sarni worked with a local civics group to assist in this immediate crisis. When she reached out to the FFT, socks and blankets were quickly donated for the refugees who were fleeing their homes and crossing into neighboring countries. The items collected were given to the Saint Michaels Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Uniondale, which coordinated efforts with their counterparts overseas.

The FFT was excited to sponsor a table in this year's **Special Olympics Village**. As soon as Superintendent Mr. Defendini put the word out that sponsors were being sought to provide activities for the athletes and their guests, our team got right to work. The "FFT Selfie Station" was the original plan. With an Olympic themed backdrop in place, athletes could use a variety of props to take pictures with their own cameras, assisted by our FFT volunteers. Then our idea really took on life when a local business, **BOOM EVENTS SOURCE**, agreed to donate an actual photo booth and attendant for this worthwhile event. Now participants were able to leave with a printed photo of their experience at the Special Olympics.



*Pictured: Volunteers and participants at the FFT photo booth*



# SPOTLIGHT ON....

## JAMES HUGHES

Mr. Hughes is a beloved teacher of Social Studies at Farmingdale High School. Throughout his almost 30-year career he has received numerous honors for his accomplishments, while overcoming his personal challenges. Mr. Hughes has been blind since the age of three which was compounded by hearing loss later in his life. But none of these hurdles have stopped him from accomplishing his goals while inspiring the students that he teaches and mentors.

Most recently, on May 10, 2022, he was again recognized for his continued outstanding service as a public educator and role model.

Mr. Hughes was honored as a recipient of the *Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award*.

*Congratulations Mr. Hughes!*

## STACY CABRERA, JACLYN TANNAZZO, and DONNA WRIGHT

Business Teachers Stacy Cabrera, Jaclyn Tannazzo and Donna Wright were invited by Newsday to tour their new corporate headquarters in Melville on April 5, 2022. Conversations took place with editors, program directors and social media directors on what Newsday has to offer students in the form of field trips, guest speakers, and contests. The event included a tour of Studio 2 where they can hold large class trips to discuss the media industry and give students an overview of their multimedia offerings. A stop in Studio 1 allowed the teachers to see where they film Newsday TV. Teachers got a chance to go behind the cameras and see the huge green screen stage. This was a great networking experience creating new opportunities to bring Farmingdale students real-world learning experiences.



## KELLY RICE, JILLIAN GEMMA, CATHERINE McLOUGHLIN, and KRISTINA LEON

Albany Avenue teachers Kelly Rice, Jillian Gemma, Catherine McLoughlin, and nurse Kristina Leon ran in the Baltimore 1/2 Marathon back on October 9, 2021. It was a first 1/2 marathon for Kelly and Jillian. Together they created a training plan for running this course. The route was very hilly and challenging but they all finished at their own pace.

These women set an example for their students and colleagues, inspiring many to join the Albany Avenue 5K Run/Walk this past May.



*Congratulations!*

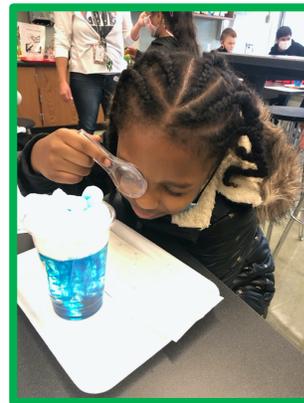
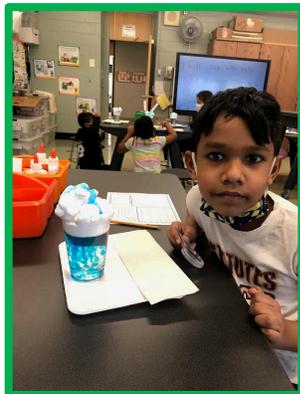
## SCIENCE MATTERS – DISCOVERY EDUCATION

Across all grade levels, students are engaging in hands-on scientific discovery. Developing observation and questioning skills, enhancing vocabulary and language, and critical thinking are all enhanced through on-going learning opportunities.

### Rain Cloud in a Jar



Students at Saltzman East Memorial Elementary are creating some thunder! Second grade classes all visited the science lab, and with the assistance of Mrs. Fragila, they saw just how rain clouds work. Hypotheses were made...steps were recorded...and observations were shared. Learning the Scientific Method at this young age through hands-on activities helps to ignite curiosity and a passion for science learning. Student reactions and the excitement to what they experienced were electric.



### Whoooo Knew? A Science – Language Connection

English Language Learners in Michelle Angiulo's High School class dissected owl pellets while learning about the steps of the Scientific Method. After making observations of owls' expelling pellets and doing some research as to why, students tried to prove that owls cannot digest the bones and fur of their prey, which include rodents and small birds. Then they tried to identify the organism that was eaten after organizing and analyzing the contents of the pellet. After that, students made charts and bar graphs to help them analyze their findings. They eventually came to the conclusion that owls eat mostly rodents and do not digest their bones and fur.



Even the most squeamish student ended up being engaged in this activity, skillfully using the dissecting tools and organizing the contents with precision and accuracy. Students also incorporated English language skills as they discussed and wrote about the experiment.

## CLASSROOM POINTERS

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*"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers,  
not methods and techniques.*

*The teacher is the heart of the educational system."*

*- Sidney Hook*

*The Farmingdale community said goodbye to  
these retiring "hearts" at the end of the  
2021-2022 school year:*

**Judy Adelman**

**Diane Alexander**

**Joseph Bianca**

**Jacqueline Brown**

**Shari Campbell**

**Alice Conroy**

**Robin Fruman**

**Emily Geiger**

**Merle Goess**

**Janet Kretz**

**Laurie Musiker-Croes**

**Leigh O'Brien**

**Christy Quinland**

**Richard Santa Maria**

**Terri Stapleton**

**Catherine Turano**

*We thank each of them for their years of service  
and dedication to the students of Farmingdale.*

*Published by the  
FARMINGDALE  
FEDERATION  
OF TEACHERS*

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