



VOICES OF EAST WOODS

VOLUME 1 No. 1

NOVEMBER 21, 2011

A Message From the Headmaster

Dear Friends,
A week does not pass when I have not read an article that discusses the importance of developing in today's students certain intellectual skills and character traits specific to the 21st Century. Tony Wagner posits in *The Global Achievement Gap*



that the seven skills that children need are: critical thinking and problem solving; collaboration and teamwork; agility and adaptability; initiative and entrepreneurialism; effective oral and written communication; accessing and analyzing information, and finally, curiosity and imagination. As I observe classes, I see these skills woven into our program and I believe it is the reason for the success of our graduates in secondary school and beyond.

All of these skills and traits are important but if I had to choose, I would advocate that curiosity and imagination are essential to the learning process. When children are curious, they ask a lot of questions which leads to discovery and, in the process, to the development of analytical skills. Good analytical skills enhance problem solving and critical thinking. Similarly, when children imagine, they are creating images through art and through the written word. Imagining can take the form of play activities or even music. The deeper their

imagination and curiosity grow, the richer their educational experience. One of the best examples of this in our curriculum is the Fifth Grade Invention Convention. Each student invents an original "gadget" that solves a problem. It requires the students to collaborate with a classmate, to be curious about a problem, and to use their imaginations to solve this problem by their often fanciful inventions. Finally, they have to present their inventions to their class and their parents. From a child's first days at East Woods, we model cooperation and collaboration, we encourage their creativity and help them use their imagination to its fullest. These are the hallmarks of an East Woods education.

All the best,
Nathaniel W. Peirce, Ed.D.
Headmaster

Fathers Visiting Day



For more pictures of Fathers Visiting Day please [follow this link](#).

East Woods hosted the annual Fathers Visiting Day on Tuesday, November 8th. Events included a welcome and coffee in the Library, the Dedication of William Jonas portrait of East Woods, an assembly and musical presentation in the Old Gym, and classroom visits. Afterwards, there was a BBQ Lunch for 4th-8th Grade students and dads, followed by the traditional Father/Child soccer games.

A Portrait of East Woods



To read the article that was printed in the November 11 edition of the Oyster Bay Guardian, please [follow this link](#).

On Tuesday, November 8th at 8:15 AM, East Woods formally unveiled a portrait of the school building painted by noted artist and Oyster Bay resident, William Jonas, a past East Woods parent. During the ceremony, Dr. Peirce and President of the Board of Trustees, Brian Sweeney thanked Mr. Jonas for his generous contribution to the school.

A Faculty Reflection

I have always been proud to work at East Woods School, but today I realized how proud I am to work here. As Fathers Visiting Day began in the gymnasium with so many of the students performing I was overwhelmed with emotion. I watched the Lower School sing beautifully and play the recorder so perfectly. I watched the Upper School Chorus sing "Firework" so magnificently. As I listened to the lyrics, "You just gotta ignite the light, and let it shine," I realized that is what we do for our students. We "ignite the light". Lastly, as I watched the Rhythm and Blues Band play I watched three quiet and shy boys perform their talents as solos in front of an entire auditorium and drop that "y" from shy and make it "SHINE." I am proud to be part of the East Woods Faculty that has helped these students reach their potential.

Laura Sacco
Computer Education

Halloween Parade



For more pictures of the Halloween Parade please [follow this link](#).

On Monday, October 31st East Woods hosted the annual Halloween Parade. As students in colorful costumes marched around the front circle, delighted parents watched, took photographs, and videotaped the event. Everyone was grateful for the perfect Fall weather!

2011 Book Cover Contest



Our annual contest challenges students in Kindergarten and up to design original covers based upon actual books. Using a range of materials, students design colorful, multi-dimensional poster boards to represent their favorite titles. A panel of judges, representing faculty and staff members, examines all of the colorful entries on display and evaluates the covers for creativity, originality and accuracy. This year's entries were particularly striking and imaginative, and the judges were challenged to pick the winning entries. Fourth Grade student, Sophia Ceriello was selected as the grand overall winner, and she and all of the grade winners received gift certificates to spend at our Fall Book Fair. All of the students' entries will remain on display through the end of the month, and the winning covers may be viewed by [clicking here](#). Congratulations to all who participated!

National French Week



In celebration of National French Week, students had the opportunity to learn about UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which encourages international peace and universal respect by promoting collaboration among nations. The purpose of National French Week is to increase our community's understanding and appreciation of the francophone world by finding interesting and entertaining ways of looking at how French touches our lives as well as learning about the dozens of countries and millions of people who speak this beautiful language. A display of the students knowledge of French culture was illustrated with their drawings, collages, and watercolors. Since experts from the UN cultural organization declared that France's multi-course gastronomic meal with its rites and its presentation, fulfilled the conditions for featuring on the "world intangible heritage" list, our Eighth Grade French students planned their own celebration. They became chefs for a day and planned, cooked and baked a delicious meal. Au menu: Moules marinières (Tori Douglas and Chelsea Lovell), Souffle au fromage (Madalyn Prince and Alexander Sheeline), Onglet frites (Luke Doyle, John Henry Hanson, and Sam Towse), Salade verte, Plateau de fromages, Clafoutis aux poires (Kelsey Dobler and Hadley McCormick), et Crepes Suzette (Haya Sheeline and Adele Sukhov). With great appreciation to the kitchen staff who really went out of their way, for a few days, the Upper School had the pleasure to enjoy French meals, including onion soup, quiche, steak-frites, chocolate mousse, and other delicacies. Before each meal, French students shared facts about the francophone world, and on November 11th, Veterans Day, they spoke about World War I.
Madame Martine M. Tawaji

Eighth Grade Haikus

The following poems were entered in a contest at Scholastic Scope magazine. The subject is: What Adventures Does Your Future Hold?

Matthew Castronova

A beautiful wife
Jovial, carefree children
This is my future

Hadley McCormick

My future holds me
I can see it so clearly
Bright, defined, lively

Adele Sukhov

A lucrative job
Truly loving family
My amazing life

Spencer Woods

Four years of high school
Future holds endless contests
Tough hurdles ahead

Kelsey Dobler

Map in the trashcan
There is no destination
My journey starts here

Chelsea Lovell

I am a dancer
Dance is a part of my life
My hopes and my dreams

John Henry Hanson

I can decide fate
Parents try to control it
My future is shaped