

## Dr. Adele Pecora is named new Superintendent



Dr. Adele Pecora will begin as Superintendent on July 1, 2017.

The Board of Education of the Seaford School District has named Dr. Adele Pecora to the position of Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Pecora will replace Superintendent Brian Conboy who announced in September his decision to end his career in Seaford after 33 years of service.

Dr. Pecora comes to Seaford Schools from the Commack School District where she currently holds the

position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment K-12. Over the past six years in this capacity, her focus has been to provide access and opportunity for students to acquire 21st century skills necessary for college and career readiness. A lifelong educator, she began her career as a high school social studies teacher and later became a social studies chairperson, a high school assistant principal, and then a director of curriculum and technology.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Cornell University, a Master's Degree in Teaching from Tufts University and a Doctorate in Education Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Pecora is a native and current resident of Massapequa Park, and graduated from Massapequa High School. Her two older children are also graduates of Massapequa High School where her third child is currently a sophomore.

Dr. Pecora said she is "honored and grateful" to be selected to serve as Seaford's Superintendent and thanks the Board of Education for its confidence in her.

"During the interview process, it was apparent to me that we shared the same beliefs regarding teaching, learning and student growth," Dr. Pecora said. "I look forward to working with the Board and the entire Seaford community to foster intellectual curiosity and expand student opportunities by providing an exemplary education program for all Seaford students."

The Board of Education worked with a professional search firm over several months to find potential candidates for the position. The Board also received input from the staff and community, and conducted numerous interviews before selecting Dr. Pecora as the district's superintendent. She was officially appointed to the position at the March 2nd Board of Education meeting at Seaford Harbor Elementary School.

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## Budget Hearing May 4

The annual school budget hearing will be held on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Seaford High School auditorium. The hearing is the last opportunity for residents to ask questions or to voice their concerns and/or suggestions before the budget vote. All residents are encouraged to attend. The budget vote will take place on May 16, 7a.m.-9 p.m., in the Harbor and Manor schools. For more information, please see page 4.

## Please note:

*School will be open on Monday, April 10 and Friday, May 26 due to the use of snow days on Feb. 9 and March 14. Please mark your calendars accordingly.*

## AP numbers up, new options ahead

The number of Seaford High School students taking Advanced Placement exams is expected to reach a new high this spring. With 525 tests slated to be administered, up from 498 in 2016 and jumping from 401 in 2015, Seaford High School is experiencing marked growth in its Advanced Placement program.

Based on data in Newsday's article "More LI high school students passing Advanced Placement Exams," printed last fall, Seaford's ratio of exams administered to seniors taking exams, as well as the ratio for the number of exams administered to seniors passing exams were higher than several neighboring districts to which Seaford is often compared, according to Scott Bersin, Seaford High School Principal. "Having Seaford's growth show favorably among area schools is very encouraging."

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## A message from the Board

With our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brian Conboy, announcing his plans to end his Seaford career on June 30, 2017, the Board has completed the hiring process led by the search firm District Wise and selected Dr. Adele Pecora as our next Superintendent. Dr. Pecora will bring her wealth of experience and her passion for education to our District. We are all excited for the future as Dr. Pecora continues Mr. Conboy's vision to make Seaford Schools even better. You may see Dr. Pecora touring our schools and attending events as she gets to know our staff, students, parents and facilities. To give the community a chance to meet her, the Board will hold an Open House with Dr. Pecora sometime in the future. Please check our website regularly for more information.

In early March, the administration presented the Board with a draft budget for 2017-18. The administration worked hard to honor the Board's request to keep this budget below our tax cap limit while also maintaining and enhancing our academic programs. The public is invited to attend any of our budget workshops and/or review any budget information as it is posted on our website. More details about the final adopted budget will be available in our Budget Spotlight, which you will receive by mail shortly, and at our budget hearing on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Seaford High School.

As the weather warms up, the Harbor Emergency Access Road project should be breaking ground. Plans are also underway for a new and improved District website. We hope to have these projects completed and ready for the new school year in September.

Lastly, on behalf of the whole Board I wish to thank all of our school and community groups for providing vital support to our schools. This support comes in many forms — from financial to running activities — and it is what makes Seaford the community that we are.

Bruce Kahn  
President, Seaford Board of Education

## NYS scholarships awarded

Achieving perfect and near-perfect scores on their New York State Regents exams paid off for six Seaford High School seniors who were awarded New York State Academic Excellence scholarships.

Michael Pollichino, who earned a perfect score on two Regents exams and near perfect on several others, received a \$1,500 scholarship, the highest honor given to one deserving student in each high school in the state. Juliana Chiarelli, Evan Groder, Laura Osa, Sarah Umstadt and Isabella Valentino each received a \$500 scholarship.

The awards are to be used at colleges or universities in New York State and are renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study or five years if a program requires five years, according to the state education department guidelines. While the scholarship winners have not yet determined which institutions they plan on attending next year, all of them applied to schools within New York State with the goal of pursuing majors in such fields as engineering, marine biology, political science, health sciences and criminology.



With guidance counselors and Principal Scott Bersin are, from left, Evan Groder, Isabella Valentino, Michael Pollichino, Sarah Umstadt, Juliana Chiarelli and Laura Osa.

## A Scripps Regional competitor

Seaford Middle School eighth-grader Shaye Castillo had the opportunity to compete in the 2017 Hofstra Long Island Regional Scripps Spelling Bee at Hofstra University after being crowned the winner of the school-wide spelling bee. The regional tournament is the official qualifying competition for the National Scripps Spelling Bee that takes place in May in Washington, D.C. While Shaye did not advance to the national competition, she gained a valuable experience competing against her peers throughout the region.



Spelling champion Shaye Castillo

## Creating STEAM with catapults

With 60 popsicle sticks, rubber bands and a plastic spoon, Seaford Harbor fifth-graders were challenged to build a catapult that could fling a plastic ping pong ball the farthest across the classroom. The activity was part of the school's STEAM lunch series, which focuses on projects that encourage students to use science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics, while fostering 21st century skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving.

Led by Seaford Middle School science teachers Melissa Levine and Amanda Shirreffs, the lesson began with an overview of "simple mechanics," which students already knew as devices that make a job easier, such as pulleys or levers. Students eagerly gave examples of each and determined that a catapult is essentially a lever. Students were divided into five groups of five and given 30 minutes to build and test their catapults. As a guideline, a chart with some examples of catapults was provided.

"Be as creative as your minds will allow," Shirreffs said as she and Levine canvassed the room to offer guidance. Once their catapults were constructed, each team had three tries to fling the ping pong ball as far as it could go. After several long throws and a few mishaps, the winning team's ball sailed 13 feet across the classroom. Each member of that team was rewarded with a puzzle ball eraser. Students said the activity was challenging but fun. A second group of 25 students also participated in the activity on a separate day.



Seaford Harbor Elementary School fifth-graders made catapults as part of a STEAM lesson.

## 'Seussical the Musical' brings out our inner child



Elissa Castro as the Cat in the Hat

The Seaford High School Drama Club took audiences into the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss with an amusing and colorful production of "Seussical the Musical" at Seaford High School Auditorium, March 2-4. "Seussical," directed and choreographed by Seaford alumna Samantha Gates, Class of 2009, showcased Dr. Seuss' beloved characters, such as The Cat in the Hat, portrayed by Elissa Castro, Horton the Elephant, played by Christopher Ho, Gertrude McFuzz, acted by Amanda Cesario, Lazy Mayzie LaBird portrayed by Lauren Paladino and JoJo played by Peyton Franco, and teaches the power of being unique, and the importance of fighting for one's beliefs. "Many thanks go out to the entire cast, crew and pit orchestra and the production team who have worked many hours since November to present this wonderful show," Gates said.

## Student artwork goes All-County

Twenty-four students from the Seaford School District had their artistic talent on display at the Art Supervisors Association's 13th Annual Nassau All-County Art Exhibition at Farmingdale State College, March 12.

The exhibit honored the talents of nearly 1,200 young artists who have demonstrated excellence in a wide variety of two-dimensional visual art forms.

The Seaford students featured in the exhibit were: Harbor Elementary School students

Morgan Prosser, grade 1; Amelia Curry, grade 2; and Kayleigh Elias, grade 3. Manor Elementary School students Annie Donohue, grade 2, Victoria Stebner, grade 3 and Emily Salce, grade 4; Seaford Middle School sixth-grader Natalie Masters and seventh-graders Julie Lange, Anthony Munro, Annarose Romanelli, Julia Saulpaugh, and Rabeya Shahid; Seaford High School freshman Autumn Perry, sophomore Isabella Torelli, juniors Kendall Lowinger, Taylor Stone, and Zoe Zedalis; and seniors Andrew Blaurock, Lauren Delsignore, Morgan Meehan, Alexis Silverstein, Analisa Vazquez, Isaac Wong, and Taylor Yarmie.

In addition to the exhibit, Lauren Delsignore was one of numerous graduating seniors awarded a scholarship at an invitation-only ceremony. She plans on studying art education at LIU Post beginning this fall.



ASA scholarship winner Lauren Delsignore with Art Chairperson Curtis Tripoli.

## Boys Track wins crown

Seaford High School Boy's Winter Track made history for the district this season as the first Seaford team to ever win the



Boys Winter Track are Conference Champions.

of the boys' determination and focus towards winning this championship," said Coach Kimberly Cooke.

Winter Conference 6 Championship. The team captured the crown, Jan. 11 at St. Anthony's High School after scoring 101 points, defeating the runner up, Oyster Bay, by 23 points.

"I am so proud

## Dedication to a devoted coach

Seaford High School's Bob Gerbino Wrestling Match was a night of surprise, exhilaration and emotion for a coach that not only transformed Seaford wrestling into a championship team, but vastly impacted the lives of his athletes in ways that shaped their character and success later in life.

Before an enthusiastic crowd consisting of wrestling alumni dating back to the 1960s, Seaford Schools Superintendent Brian Conboy paid tribute to his longtime friend and Seaford High School's beloved wrestling coach Sal LoStrappo, highlighting his remarkable achievements and all that he has contributed during his 20-year coaching career at Seaford High School. Capping his tribute, Conboy presented LoStrappo with a plaque that dedicated the high school's fitness/wrestling room in his honor. The gesture surprised LoStrappo and brought the crowd to its feet as they clapped and cheered for the man who transformed the wrestling program and its athletes.

Conboy, who has known LoStrappo since 1973 when they played Seaford Little League together, said, "Sal was an athletic phenom...When Sal became wrestling coach I remember thinking, 'that team's about to change,'" he said. "Sal reignited a fuse and brought the team to championships almost every year. It is because of his coaching and the success of his team that the Friends of Seaford Wrestling was formed and, with Sal's blessing, that the Patrick Butler and Bob Gerbino wrestling matches were established."

The success of the team led to the transformation of an old rifle range into the fitness/wrestling room, which was part of the district's 2008 bond issue.

LoStrappo, who was rather overcome with emotion when the plaque was revealed, thanked all involved and then shouted into the mike with enthusiasm, "Let's get this match started!"

Ending the evening on a perfect note, Seaford won the match against Oyster Bay 47-27 and senior Jake Palmer was presented with the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award.



Coaches Rob and Dave Takseraas, Coach Sal LoStrappo, Athletic Director Tom Condon and Superintendent Brian Conboy display the dedication plaque presented to LoStrappo and a Viking trophy given to Conboy for his support of the wrestling program.

## Getting ready for kindergarten

Nearly 140 incoming kindergartners and their parents became acclimated to the kindergarten experience by participating in a morning program on literacy and another on special areas. The literacy program consisted of an interactive read aloud, a reading activity based on the read aloud book and an information session for parents that explained the kindergarten ELA curriculum and standards, as well as the importance of reinforcing those skills at home. The Specials program introduced them to library, physical education, music and art.



A incoming kindergartner completes a literacy activity at Manor Elementary School.

## School budget vote and trustee election

**Tuesday, May 16, 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

Are you registered to vote? Qualified residents may register to vote in the District Clerk's office, 1600 Washington Ave., Seaford, Monday through Friday until May 9. Monday – Thursday hours are 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Friday hours are 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Registration will also take place during the district's public hearings and meetings. Residents will vote on the 2017-18 school budget and elect two candidates to the Board of Education. Residents who wish to run for the Board of Education may contact District Clerk Carmen Ouellette at 592-4003.

## New Superintendent Continued from page 1

"The Board is excited and looking forward to working with Dr. Pecora, the staff and the Seaford community to continue the work that Mr. Conboy has been instrumental in accomplishing over his long and dedicated career in the district," said Bruce Kahn, President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Conboy said he looks forward to working with Dr. Pecora over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition for the position of Superintendent of Schools. He added, "I am very pleased the district was able to attract a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience to lead the Seaford School District into the future. I wish for her nothing but success!"

## AP numbers up

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Currently students have 19 Advanced Placement courses from which to choose. With the addition of AP Capstone, a two-part program, the number will rise to 20 in 2017-18 and 21 in 2018-19. Students who successfully pass the AP exams, which are graded on a scale of 1-5, earn college credit. More importantly, performance on AP exams is a key indicator of college readiness. With more students challenging themselves; more are preparing themselves to perform well at the college level.

"We worked diligently over the past few years to find new opportunities to set the bar higher for our students

by expanding our AP course offerings in ways that appeal to a variety of students based on their strengths and interests," said John Striffolino, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Personnel.

***"Any time you can engage students and get them excited about learning it's a great opportunity."***

***-Linda Kanarek, English Language Arts Chairperson***

"In recent years we've added AP Psychology, Environmental Science, and Human Geography. We also added rigor through a two-part science research program. This fall, we are very excited about introducing the AP Capstone program, which is the College Board's equivalent to an International Baccalaureate program."

The AP Capstone is a two-part continuum that require students to analyze, integrate and synthesize research while making cross-curricular connections. The first class, AP Seminar, is a group-based research course on topics that are appealing to the students, according to Linda Kanarek, the district's English Language Arts Chairperson.

"The course encompasses a lot of collaboration, presentation work and some individual short papers," she said.

The course will be offered to qualified sophomores in the 2017-18 school year and will be taken as the students' required English Language Arts class. It will be co-taught by an English Language Arts teacher and a Social Studies teacher.

The second course, AP Research, will be offered in the 2018-19 school year as an elective for juniors or seniors. Juniors will be required to take AP or Regents English. The Research course focuses on academic-level research papers of about 4-5,000 words that are done individually and presented before a faculty panel.

Teachers will be attending a one-week training program offered by the College Board during the summer. Upon completion of these two courses, students who earn scores of 3 or above on the exams for both of the AP Capstone course and on four additional AP exams of their choosing will be awarded the AP Capstone Diploma, which will be available in the 2018-19 school year.

"Any time you can engage students and get them excited about learning it's a great opportunity," Kanarek said.

"This is another effort to prepare our students to be college and career ready," Striffolino added. "When students have these courses on their college applications, it will be very impressive."

### Board of Education:

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