



COMPASS

Committee Works to Fulfill Mission Goals

Now that North Salem's mission is to "Engage students to continuously learn, question, define, and solve problems through critical and creative thinking," the job for teachers and administrators is to improve students' performance in these essential 21st-century skills.

"We have to look beyond state and national test scores," says Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Human Resources and Mission Committee leader Dr. Michael Hibbard. "As these tests are currently constructed, 21st-century problem solving through critical and creative thinking is not assessed," he says. "These problem-solving skills are essential for our students and our country if we are to continue our leadership in the global society."

Now Dr. Hibbard and his team are working to make sure that problem-solving tasks involving critical and creative thinking are part of North Salem's K-12 learning experience in all courses and grade levels.

The Mission Committee has spent the last few months developing a workable document of criteria for the design of these problem-solving tasks. "Our approach is to inventory problem-solving tasks that we already use and re-engineer them as necessary so that there is a strong continuum of teaching, learning, and assessment," says Dr. Hibbard.

A simple example of how this is done can be seen in a high school ecology lesson. Rather than teaching students facts

about the deer overpopulation problem, the lessons can be changed by giving students several scientific and popular news articles about the deer issues in New York and asking them to find specific problems to solve within the context of this big issue. Once problems have been clearly defined, the processes of using critical thinking for research and analysis and creative thinking for considering new options for solving the problem are taught and used to find real solutions to the real problems. Science, math, and civics concepts and facts are still important, but they are learned more deeply and remembered longer because they are tools used for authentic problem solving.

At PQ, the problem-solving tasks will be done as part of the science curriculum, and, by the end of next year, tasks will have been identified across all middle and high school grades and subjects. "We see no program as being peripheral," says Dr. Hibbard. "Some students will learn the problem-solving process best in math, and others will learn them best in art," he

explains. At every grade level, students will perform two of these mission-linked problem-solving tasks per year.

According to the committee's timeline, the 2011-12 school year will be the first year when all students perform two problem-solving tasks and will serve as the program's base line. Student progress will then be individually documented in an electronic portfolio so that improvement in problem-solving skills can be tracked K through 12.



Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES consultant Helen Pashley (front left) works with Pequenakonck teachers on involving critical and creative thinking and problem-solving tasks in the elementary science curriculum.

Community Encouraged to Participate in Budget Process

Community members are encouraged to participate in the development of the 2010-11 school district budget. Board meetings are held in the middle school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. [See page 2 for details.](#)

Community Encouraged to Participate in Budget Process

Wednesday	2/24/10	Superintendent Presents Budget
Wednesday	3/03/10	Board of Education Meeting – Budget Meeting #1: Central Administration, Curriculum, and Buildings/Grounds/Transportation
Wednesday	3/10/10	Board of Education Meeting – Budget Meeting #2: Instructional Supervision, Instructional Teaching, Co-curricular Activities and Athletics
Wednesday	3/17/10	Board of Education Meeting – Budget Meeting #3: Instructional Media and Technology, Special Education, and Pupil Services
Wednesday	3/24/10	Board of Education Meeting – Budget Meeting #4: Finalize Budget
Wednesday	4/14/10	Budget Adoption
Wednesday	5/05/10	Budget Hearing
Tuesday	5/18/10	School Budget & Trustee Election

Board Meeting Videos Available on Demand

Effective January 6, North Salem Board of Education meetings can be seen as video on demand on the district's website, www.northsalemschools.org. Viewers may click on Board of Education and then Video on Demand. All board meetings will be posted.

Board meetings are also screened weekly on Cablevision Channel 18.

Trustee Elections

Three trustee seats will be up for election; those of current board president Katherine Daniels, Jonathan Freeman, and Paul Smadbeck. Nominating petitions for election to the board of education must be submitted to the district clerk by Monday April 19th at 5 p.m.

To vote on the budget and for trustees you must be registered with either the school district's board of registration or with the county board of elections. Registration may be completed at the district office, 230 June Road, during office hours. The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

Museum Visit Ties Poetry to Social Studies

In an interdisciplinary exercise, fourth grade students recently visited the Katonah Museum of Art to tour its current exhibit, *Bold, Cautious, True: Walt Whitman and American Art of the Civil War Era*, which centers on representations of historical events in American art and the literature of Walt Whitman in and around the Civil War period.

The exhibition depicts the mood, values, courage, and spirit of the Civil War era, which the fourth grade covers as part of its social studies curriculum. The visit allowed the children to explore original paintings of prominent 19th-century American artists, including Frederic E. Church, Sanford Gifford, and Winslow Homer.

Students also had an opportunity to see some work from the 19th-century Hudson River School as well as the reinterpretation landscape paintings of contemporary artist, Alison Moritsugu.

The tours engaged the children in active discussion to develop their ability to communicate their response to art.

"This kind of visit helps students take experiences from their own lives and put

it into their own artwork," explains art teacher Jayne Silverblade.

A wrap-up session encouraged students to use imagery to generate words, and involved the children writing poems in the spirit of Walt Whitman.



Katonah Museum of Art docent Judy Newman talks to fourth grade teacher Jeanne Dobbs and her students about the Sanford Gifford work, *Baltimore, 1862 - Twilight*, and how it evokes the eve of an impending battle.

Science – It's Elementary!

With help from the PTO, classroom learning at PequenaKonck has been enhanced with a variety of hands-on learning experiences this year, from understanding the science of bubbles to features of outer space.

Colonial Crafts



From left, fourth graders Nicholas Curro, Giancarlo Arcese, parent Kathy Arcese, Mikala Cipriani, Shane Behler, and Alina DiMella learn the 18th-century skill of candle dipping.

Fourth graders learned some colonial crafts at the P/NW BOCES Environmental Center at Madden to enhance their studies of New York State history, which includes Colonial times. In a program that has been pursued at PQ for so long that some staff members remember doing it when they were fourth graders, Colonial Crafts includes dipping candles, baking pretzels, and making a Jacob's ladder toy.

Bubbles

Bubbleologist Casey Carle enlightened students about the science of blowing bubbles. He made bubble sculptures, bubble snow showers, a bubble crystal ball, bubbles within bubbles, and even created "the human bubble," encasing students inside a huge soapy film.



Bubbleologist Casey Carle creates a human bubble of third grader Mia Gianguialano.

Introducing the students to scientific words such as *solution* and *formula* he gave them some of his science secrets, "so you can be bubbleologists too!"

Solar System

Third grade studies of the solar system were enriched by a visit from scientist Chris Stetson from High Touch, High Tech who talked about the phases of the

moon, centrifugal force, and the importance of the sun.



Talons!

A presenter from Talons! birds of prey program visited PQ to start the fourth grade study of owls and other birds of prey and their adaptations. Students observed birds up close and in flight, and some fed worms to the screech owl.



Kara Robbins learns about centrifugal force.

PQ Students Turn Positive Behavior into Dollars for Charity

Students at PequenaKonck Elementary School have risen to the Tigers CARE challenge this year, already accumulating more than 25,000 "We CARE – We Share" tickets for being "caught" doing something good.

The tickets, accumulating in a huge container in the school's front hallway, are inching their way to a 40,000 ticket goal, at which point \$1,000 will be donated to Friends of Karen by area opticians, Raymond Opticians. Friends of Karen helps families of critically ill children in the tri-state area pay for medical expenses, transportation to treatments, and assistance with household expenses, among other necessities.

The We CARE – We Share effort expands on the school's behavioral expectations program, Tigers CARE (Cooperate, Act responsibly, Respect each other, and Expect honesty) to introduce the concept of philanthropy. "The theme now includes the idea of giving to others, rather than only receiving personal acknowledgements for their positive behavior," says school psychologist Dennis Tendler.

Building on their relationship with Friends of Karen, PQ students made Valentine cards this year for children and families being served by the North Salem-based organization.



School mascot, Cubby the Tiger, received a hero's welcome at the PequenaKonck School's assembly to introduce the We CARE – We Share ticket drive.

North Salem Honor Society Inducts 50

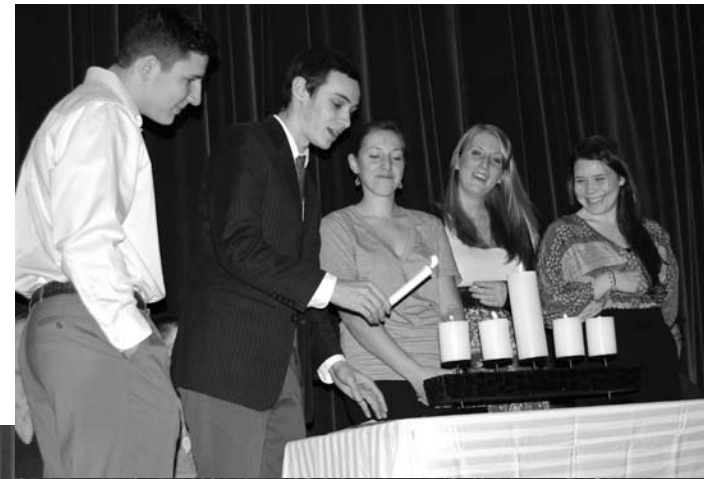
In the largest ceremony of its kind in the history of North Salem Middle/High School, 50 students were recently inducted into the North Salem chapter of the National Honor Society. The ceremony recognized the inductees' knowledge, scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Students with an average of 88 or higher are invited to apply for membership and undergo rigorous review.

Each inductee was introduced by a current member of the society; presenters spoke of the inductees' wide-ranging accomplishments and civic activities, from cleaning up beaches in Florida to volunteering at local churches.

"This is the highest honor that a faculty can bestow on the student body, and it's not bestowed lightly," high school principal, Dr. Pat Cyganovich, told the society's newest members. "Thank you for making North Salem the very special place that it is," she said.

This year's inductees are Kimberly Allcot, Ethan Bassin, Jeffrey Bastone, James Batchelder, Nicholas Brown, Jessica Caputo, Taylor Cotter, Lucie Couillard, Timothy Curran, Taylor Cutler, Sabrina D'Agostino, Millie Distefano, Mackenzie Fauser, Campbell Fay, Caitlin Ferguson, Danielle Fiacco, Taylor

Fleischner, Luke Floer, Phoebe Foard, Claire Foster, Robert Grasso, Dolly Hall, Elizabeth Holt, Melanie Hublard-Hershman, Julia Kaiser, Madeline Kirshoff, Rachel Lenchner, Ashley LoBuono, Michael Loftus, Matthew Mastroianni, Kristen Mateja, Brittany McGovern, Katherine McSweeney, Cara Megerdichian, Shawn Miles, David Mossman, Michael Muoio, Ryan Osleeb, Alyssa Paesano, Tyler Paulvin, Billy Pearson, Michael Putillo, Dylan Salpeter, Alexia Shea, Marisa Stark, Kristie Trageser, Rachel Urban, Sara Vazquez, Alexandra Walsh, and Matthew Walker.



Officers of the North Salem Chapter of the National Honor Society light the candles of knowledge, scholarship, character, service, and leadership. From left: Konrad Gessler (president), Daniel Schepps (treasurer), Amy Strada (secretary), NHS member Meghan Palotta, and Jessica Kravit (vice president).

The 50 newest inductees of the North Salem chapter of the National Honor Society.



Conference Teaches Girls Importance of Choices

As one of the only female fireboat engineers in the world, Jessica DuLong is proof that there is no such thing as a "man's job." "I still hear that some jobs are for girls and some are for boys. I'm here to tell you – that's not true," she told an audience of 108 fifth- and sixth-grade girls from 11 school districts attending the 15th annual Women Helping Girls with Choices Conference at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES.

North Salem sixth graders Anais Baldi, Sydney Barrella, Julia Chen, Kate Fraioli, Hannah Pastore, and Amanda Siciliano were among those listening to her message.

"A million little things led me here – it wasn't what I envisioned," Ms. DuLong, who is also a published author, told the young conference participants. "You have to remember that there are thousands of opportunities waiting for you around each corner. You never know where life is going to take you. So you have to open your eyes and realize opportunities come in unexpected places."

The Women Helping Girls with Choices Conference is designed to inspire leadership and enhance self-esteem in fifth and sixth grade girls. The conference's goals include fostering "I Can" attitudes in girls, discussing expanded career options for women, enhancing participants' self-esteem by connecting them with women of achievement, and encouraging support and consideration of others.

The North Salem participants gained valuable insight from

the conference. Hannah Pastore learned about leadership and to never give up. Kate Fraioli learned to believe in herself. And Julia Chen learned about a positive attitude. "I learned that just because people say women can't do something that men can, doesn't mean it's true," Julia said. "If you want to do something, just do it."

Guidance counselor Jennifer Galligan accompanied the North Salem girls to the conference. "I love the Women Helping Girls conference for bringing girls together and inspiring them to pursue their dreams. Jessica DuLong definitely held their interest and gave them confidence to think outside the box."



Guidance counselor Jennifer Galligan (top left) with North Salem sixth graders from left, Kate Fraioli, Sydney Barrella, Anais Baldi, Amanda Siciliano (top right), Hannah Pastore and Julia Chen.

Watch This Space!

That would be the space on the northwest side of the middle/high school. With the help of students at a magnet school 600 miles away, come spring, there will be a student garden out there to be used in multiple ways.

"It goes along with our whole green initiative," says MS/HS assistant principal, George Bovino. Dr. Bovino's vision for the project involves using art students to design it; others to create, maintain, and learn from it; and the whole school to savor it: fresh vegetables in the cafeteria and fresh flowers in the offices. "It's going to go far beyond planting vegetables and herbs," he says.

That vision is coming together with help from a committee whose members include teachers, a district administrator, students, staff members, and several community members, including Jack McGrath and Kathy Outhouse from Outhouse Orchards, and a former seventh grade science teacher, Jodi Fiorella-Knapp, who now teaches at the Carnegie Magnet Middle School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In an Internet-based collaboration, Ms. Fiorella-Knapp and her students are busy creating a whole program of do's and don'ts to share with the North Salem students. Based on experience (the Carnegie students just created a new garden in an overgrown lot on their school property), her students are making videos and PowerPoint presentations with step-by-step lessons on the whole process for the North Salem students. Ms. Fiorella-Knapp also hopes to get the students blogging on the subject. "The whole



Former North Salem Middle/High School teacher Jodi Fiorella-Knapp (right) works with students in her school garden in North Carolina. Students in the two schools will be collaborating on a new garden to be built in North Salem this spring.

project is foolproof, because we knew nothing and had to figure it out," she says.

Both Dr. Bovino and Ms. Fiorella-Knapp love the idea of the two different groups of students collaborating on the project. "We can learn from their experience and from an exchange of ideas from a completely different population of students," explains Dr. Bovino. "We are so thrilled to be involved in such an incredible teaching and learning experience," says Ms. Fiorella-Knapp.

Alum Returns to School for Safety Talk

Damon Quattrochi spoke to the class of freshmen with the frankness of a peer. And that's what helped get his message through.

The 2006 North Salem grad returned to school in January to spend a day in freshmen seminar and sophomore health classes talking about appropriate use of the Internet and social media. His visit was part of a series of personal safety initiatives organized by a joint committee of school administrators, students, and the PTA.

On sexting – the growing teen trend of texting provocative photos via cell phone – he was blunt. "It's unintelligent and it doesn't make you cool," he said, adding, "It can really ruin your future."

Dismissing Twitter as "something no one our age uses," the Bucknell sophomore spoke about appropriate use of social media sites like Facebook and YouTube and warned students that no one knows where items deleted from the Internet actually go. "So don't post personal and sensitive information," he warned.



Damon Quattrochi (Class of 2006) returned to school with an important safety message for underclassmen: Use technology wisely.

Acknowledging that the underclassmen were still some time away from college and job applications, he warned them that whatever they post now may come back to haunt them. "In a small town like North Salem, things spread like wild fire."

His message was heard loud and clear by the freshmen in Kit Vilkas's class. "I thought it was better that he was younger," said Alexa Salvato. Maddie Lenchner, who said she remembered Damon when he was in school, agreed: "He didn't try to be perfect. He made it seem more realistic."

The talk was the fourth activity organized by the school/PTA personal safety group, which also organized a visit from martial arts experts who spoke to all grade 6 – 12 physical education classes on how to keep safe in various situations. In addition, a spokesperson from a women's center in Mahopac spoke about the importance of positive personal relationships to high school art students who are working on material for the upcoming Art Against Abuse exhibit, and middle school students had a visit from a computer crime expert.



NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
230 June Road, North Salem, New York 10560

CONTINUING EDUCATION

We're Going Green!

The Continuing Education Program's Spring Collection of Courses will be available on-line with convenient links to our website. The online catalog will help you easily browse for information and download registration forms. Catalogs will be mailed upon request only.

You will be able to access the Spring Catalog by:

• **Signing up** — receive our Catalog to your e-mail address.
(e-mail: dossantosr@northsalem.k12.ny.us or phone (914) 669-4645)

• **Logging on** — www.northsalem.k12.ny.us/adulted.php

• **Requesting** — Paper catalogs are available. Contact RoseMaria DosSantos (914) 669-4645 or e-mail: dossantosr@northsalem.k12.ny.us. A limited number of paper catalogs will be available at local post offices and libraries.

On-line catalog will be available March 1st

Open Registration —
March 1st-June 1st

Registration Options:

1/ Register by mail - Registration forms available online.

Mail to: RoseMaria DosSantos
North Salem Continuing Education
230 June Road, North Salem, NY 10560

2/ Drop off Registration Forms
at North Salem Middle/High School,
230 June Road

3/ Walk-in Registration
Monday, March 15 and Monday, March 22
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
North Salem Middle/High School,
230 June Road, in the MAIN HALL

4/ North Salem Senior Citizens
can register at the March 9th
Senior Meeting

Register Early to Reserve your Place

Thank you for joining the North Salem Central School District to help build a greener community!

CONTINUING Camaraderie, Community **EDUCATION** Enrichment, Entertainment

Fall Athletes Put District on the Map

Thirty-five athletes received league or section honors for the fall season, and the girls soccer team kept North Salem in the headlines, capturing the league and section championships. Soccer standout, senior Brian Span, received the Con Ed Scholar Athlete Award, while three athletes have committed to play sports in college: Harry Seaborn will play tennis at Penn State University, Marissa Dale has committed to Brown for lacrosse, and Danielle Fiacco will play basketball for Lafayette College.

All League, H.M. All Elite: Lizetta Solarik

All League: Meghan Palotta, Elisabeth Raskopf, Samantha Wynne, Kaitlin Bond

Boys Soccer

All League, All Section, League MVP:
Rob Recine

All League, All Section: Brian Span

All League, H.M. All Section: Nick Ranalli

All League: Paxton Ballard, Billy Cumella, Jeff Bastone, Mike Shkreli, Peter Swetz

H.M. All League: Matt Huntington, Max Loeb, Shawn Miles, Geoffrey Semmens

Girls Soccer

All League, All Section, League Co-MVP:
Alexia Shea

All League, All Section: Valerie Kay

All League, H.M. All Section: Victoria Crenson, Rita Valvano

All League: Brenna Brown, Michelle Dale, Marissa Kern, Lea Trageser

H.M. All League: Chelsea Kay, Katie McSweeney, Vicki Riefenhauser

Volleyball

All League: Mariah Law

H.M. All League: Claire Foster, Casey Mullaney

ATHLETIC CALENDAR

An up-to-date athletic calendar for North Salem sports is on the athletic page of the district website, with a full schedule of all games and practices. Parents may also be notified by email of any changes to the practice and game schedule: to sign up for email notifications click on "Sign In" on the top right hand corner of the athletic calendar, and then click "Sign Up" and tailor your email notifications to specific teams.

Fall athletic honors:

Cross Country

All League: Christian Guzman, Andrew Mackenzie, Cullin Burdett

Field Hockey

All League, All Elite, All Section, Golden Dozen: Michelle Teplensky



NORTH SALEM
COMPASS

NORTHALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
230 June Road, North Salem, NY 10560

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Visit our web site: www.northsalemsschools.org

Survey to Assess Efficacy of Tuesday Newsday

Watch your email "In" box during the week of February 22 for a survey seeking to determine community response to the new paperless district and school communications policy. Please take a few minutes to go online and fill out and return the survey, which will help the district fine-tune its *Tuesday Newsday* initiative.



SAVE THE DATE

North Salem HS Drama Club
presents

Les Misérables

April 23rd and 24th at 8 p.m.
Tickets \$10

Saturday night dinner/theater combo \$20

Reservations required for dinner/theater;
call 914-669-5317, ext.3146