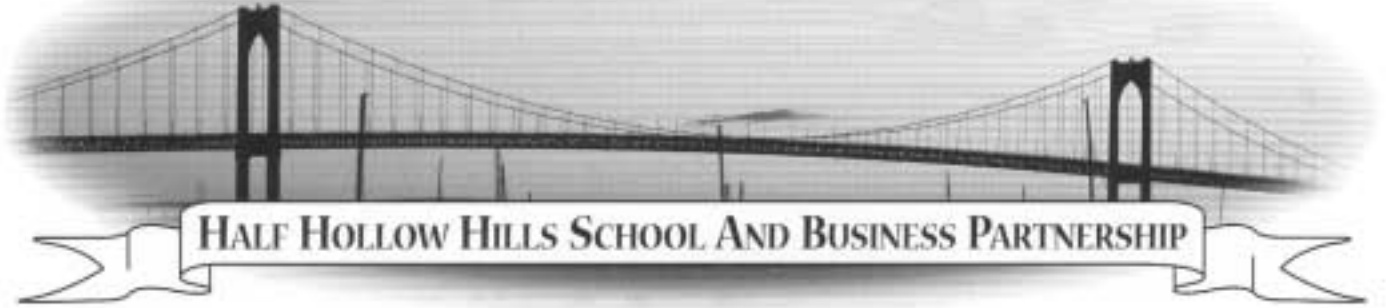


THE BRIDGE

AUGUST 2004



Partnership Benefits

To Students:

- ▲ *career direction*
- ▲ *employment procuring skills*
- ▲ *job skills*
- ▲ *path to higher education*
- ▲ *link school and real life*
- ▲ *leadership, decision-making skills*
- ▲ *confidence and independence*

To Community:

- ▲ *productive citizens*
- ▲ *higher standard of living*
- ▲ *fewer social and economic problems*
- ▲ *trained workforce*

To Business:

- ▲ *higher quality employees*
- ▲ *input to school curriculum*
- ▲ *enhanced community relations*
- ▲ *trained workforce*

Half Hollow Hills Central School District

525 Half Hollow Road
Dix Hills, NY 11746

Steve Noskin, *President*
Fran Greenspan, *Vice President*
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Dr. Sheldon Karnilow, Superintendent of Schools

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School and Business Partnership Advisory Council

The vision of the Half Hollow Hills School and Business Partnership Advisory Council is to expose all students to the dynamic nature of the work environment by providing experiences that extend and enrich the curriculum.

We pledge to create, advise and participate in programs for the Half Hollow Hills' students that will foster the acquisition of skills, knowledge, understanding and behavior necessary to gain productive, quality employment and to compete as leaders in the global economy.

Members

Architecture

Burton, Behrendt & Smith

Banking

Citigroup
Commerce Bank
HSBC Bank USA

Health Care

Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center
Huntington Hospital
Sheri Glazer, D.D.S.

Retail

Swimwear Anywhere
Walt Whitman Mall

Manufacturing

Estee Lauder
Nikon Inc.
Olympus America
Xerox Corporation
Pall Corporation

Financial Services

KPMG
Price Waterhouse Coopers
Ten Haagen Financial Group
Vested Business Solutions

Hotel Management

Melville Marriott
Oheka Castle

Community Groups

Half Hollow Hills
Community Library

Service Industry

Austin Travel
ADECCO Company
Underwriters Laboratories
Greystone Staffing, Inc.
Junior Achievement
Sigma Staffing

Legal Services

Farrell Fritz PC
Fischbein, Badillo,
Wagner & Harding
Meyer, Suozzi, English
& Klein PC

Advertising/Art

DISC Graphics
New Media Printing

Communications

Make Believe TV
Newsday
Ryan & Ryan
Telephonics

Technology

CISCO Systems
CosmoCom, Inc.
Imperial Software
Invision.com

Utilities

Keyspan Energy

Insurance

GEICO

Government

New York Court Systems
Suffolk County Department
of Labor

Education

Five Towns College
Nassau Community College
SUNY Farmingdale
Sylvan Learning Center
Half Hollow Hills
School District

Leisure

New York Islanders/Dragons

Another Great Year for the School and Business Partnership

This past year was very rewarding for the Half Hollow Hills School and Business Advisory Council. This partnership, linking local businesses with our schools, began more than ten years ago to benefit the students of Half Hollow Hills, as well as to increase the connection between businesses and the local community. Providing a resource to the schools through such programs as Teens on the Job, Mentoring, Third Graders Go to Work and many others has proved to be mutually rewarding.

During the 2003-2004 school year, we began an effort to evaluate existing school- and business-supported programs. Our goal is to develop a balanced view of the current and future needs of the students, the faculty, the business community, and the administration at Half Hollow Hills with an eye toward graduating students who are well prepared and poised for success wherever life takes them. This project will continue in the 2004-2005 school year, and I am certain that new programs will add even more value to the education of both current and future students.

I would like to thank Dr. Sheldon Karnilow and the entire administration and faculty, as well as the many participating businesses, for their unending support and dedication to our efforts to provide even more value to the students of the district. I would also like to thank my co-chair, Susan Genicoff, for her incredible efforts this past year. We all look forward to an excellent 2004-2005 school year.

Arthur J. Abbate
Co-Chair, Half Hollow Hills School and Business Partnership Advisory Council
and Director, KeySpan Corporation

District Initiatives ...& You!

As part of our School and Business Partnership district initiatives, three programs have been developed to further integrate education and business: student internships, teacher externships and student-industry focus groups.

Student internships, offered to high school juniors and seniors, help bridge the gap between school and work by helping students understand the skills needed for a chosen career. By spending one day per week at an actual work site, students have the opportunity to understand the day-to-day responsibilities of working, and to learn successful job behaviors. A journal of their observations is required, which helps them keep track of what they have learned.

Teachers also benefit from School and Business initiatives. Externships are designed to give teachers a learning experience in a business or industry for a few days during the summer. They learn various job skills that a person would need to work in a business related to their teaching assignments. This then helps make their teaching more relevant and meaningful

as they transfer this information to lesson plans for their classes.

Student-Industry Focus Groups is a program designed to provide students with a more in-depth view of a business or profession. It consists of six sessions over a period of six weeks at a company of interest. Each session relates to a major component of the company, such as human resources, marketing and sales, accounting, research and development and engineering. A final presentation about their experience to company executives is required.

We are currently reviewing these business opportunities for our students and teachers. By giving them the opportunity to see firsthand how a business operates, as well as many of the nuances involved, provides a tremendous advantage in bridging the gap between school and work. If your company or another business you know is interested in participating in any of these programs, please contact Susan Genicoff at 631-592-3061.

Businesses as Partners in Education

Imagine you are rolling a large boulder uphill. You need a little help. If you are lucky, someone comes along at the opportune moment, and not only offers a word of encouragement, but also puts his or her shoulder to the boulder and helps move it forward. That is what businesses can do as partners in education. By providing leadership and resources to promote and enhance home-school cooperation, employers become partners with their employees, their children and their future workforce. Try:

- Adopting a nearby school and allowing employee volunteers to use paid time to serve as a learning partner to a child.
- Offering on-site training for employees on how to develop productive relationships with their children's schools and foster their children's love of learning.
- Helping employees balance work and family responsibilities.
- Allowing flexible schedules so that employees can attend school functions and parent-teacher conferences.
- Establishing a workplace library so that employees can take home books and educational materials to share with their families.

Suggestions such as these can foster maturation, self-confidence and an understanding of the importance of school to all involved. Given our increasing global economy, these kinds of measures are required to tackle the daunting responsibility of preparing our young people to be productive, successful and responsible citizens. Join the efforts of the School and Business Partnership Advisory Council by becoming a partner with the Half Hollow Hills School District.

Look Who's Talking ...

Listen to what our teachers are saying . . .

*. . . about the **Students Go To Work Program**:*

- "Students learn about honesty and integrity."
- "Students get to experience the jobs of a community in a real setting."
- "They see what it takes for many people to work together."
- "Students begin to understand their own strengths and weaknesses."
- "They begin to understand the wealth of job possibilities."
- "This authentic experience reinforces much of our math curriculum."



*. . . about **Commerce Plaza**:*

- "The program encourages self-reliance and promotes cooperative teamwork in an extremely supportive, positive environment. Kids really feel great about themselves and their abilities."
- "The program gives the students a realistic view of the workforce."
- "The entire program gives students insight into economics and a new way of looking at jobs and their futures."
- "A thriving learning laboratory."

Half Hollow Hills Students Argue *Brown vs. Board of Education*

The School and Business Partnership Advisory Council, in conjunction with one of its partners, the New York Court Systems, offered several students at Half Hollow Hills High Schools East and West a unique opportunity to mark the 50th anniversary of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. On April 19, 2004, a teleconference was held at the Suffolk County Court Building with New York State Chief Justice Judith Kaye and a panel of other local dignitaries. Students from Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse and the 4th District of Northern New York (New York City and Long Island) argued the merits of the landmark case, drawing upon their critical thinking skills and giving them an opportunity to ask the Chief Judge and other associates about the case.

Participants from Half Hollow Hills included Patricia Eliasinski (10th grade), Brian Gruosso (10th grade) and Amanda Steele (11th grade). Joan Mundy-Klement, mock trial advisor, prepared the students by presenting them with potential questions that the Chief Justice could ask. Questions focused on whether laws can change the way people think and behave. Chief Justice Kaye also taught them the proper way to address and respond to the judges and associates, and discussed the appropriate attire for a day in court.

Discussion with the Chief Justice began with how *Brown vs. the Board of Education* opened doors for African-Americans in our society, moved to discrimination of women and economic discrimination and concluded with a general consensus that diversity is the desired goal, but very hard to achieve. The justices were very impressed with the quality of student answers, and left the students with the challenge to carry on the dream mandated by law in 1954. While the career paths of these students are not necessarily law, they all agreed that it was a fascinating experience, and a wonderful extension to their high school curriculum.

High School West's Career Fair 2004

Our rapidly increasing global economy is challenging us to inform students about numerous career possibilities; children in kindergarten today will be working in jobs that don't even exist yet! In order to prepare its students to make educated decisions on their future career paths, the Counseling Center of the Half Hollow Hills High School West recently held a semi-annual career fair under the direction of guidance counselor Susan Kanowitz.

This outstanding event is an outgrowth of the Counseling Center's ongoing Career Awareness Program, which affords students the opportunity to take surveys and career interest inventories, and to learn the current trends in a particular job field. Intended for students in all four grade levels, Career Fair 2004 featured a broad representation of occupational and professional fields with over 90 specialists — from airport supervisors and local law enforcement to tax attorneys and accountants. These community, business and industry members informally shared information with students on their different areas of expertise.

If you wish to share your career experiences, talent and resources with high school students, please contact Susan Kanowitz at High School West Counseling Center, 631-592-3220, or Susan Genicoff, 631-592-3061. In so doing, you can help our students make informed choices for their futures.



Teens on the Job



The Teens on the Job Program provides tenth graders with a job shadowing experience in an area of career interest. This job shadowing opportunity, appropriately named Teens on the Job Ground Hog Shadow Day, is an annual event sponsored and administered by the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island. Approximately 600 businesses across Long Island host as many as 1200 tenth graders from 50 participating high schools. Pairs of students are matched with a workplace mentor in their area of interest, and on that day, they follow their mentor as he or she goes through a normal day on the job. This experiential learning program teaches a student about today's job market, and shows the student how the skills learned in school each day are put into action in the workplace.

The program introduction begins in November with a tenth grade assembly at both high schools. Applications are distributed and must be submitted prior to December vacation. The application includes a special Teens On The Job newspaper. Students scour the ads, select jobs that match their careers of interest and prepare personal resumes and job applications. The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island then matches student pairs with jobs, and notifies the students of their shadow opportunities. The pairs are then responsible for contacting their shadowing partner. Transportation is provided either by school or by parent.

2003-2004 participants included Sunquam Elementary School, The Guidance Channel, Fox 5, Veranda 3, P.W. Grosser Consulting, WBLI Radio Station, Merle Avenue School, Good Samaritan Hospital, Dr. Michael Berlin, Bank of New York, Dr. Viviani's Total Vision Care, Albany Avenue School, NYIT, Brenner Lennon Photo Productions, Huntington Hospital, West Hollow Middle School, Optical Shoppe of Huntington, State Farm Insurance, Austin Travel, Assemblyman Robert Sweeney and Dr. Jonathan Lebowitz. Both businesses and students were enthusiastic about their shadowing experiences.

"It is always refreshing to spend the day with the students and hear their outlook on life. They ask excellent questions and are very enthusiastic. I love to watch the kids learn something new," stated one business participant. Students echoed their delight: "The most important thing I learned from Teens on the Job was to make sure that you get at least four years of college and don't drop out! No matter how menial the job, it can be rewarding." Another student added: "Teens on the Job is a great learning experience. It gives you an idea about whether the field you think you want is worth pursuing and what is required of it. I realized that it is necessary to do well in school to excel in the working world."

Half Hollow Hills also participated in a special shadowing opportunity later in the year at Stonybrook Hospital, where ten students had the opportunity to shadow employees in various departments. Fields of interest included medical, dental, pharmaceutical, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory care, administration, radiology and paramedic. This was a great "real life" learning experience.

Middle School Mentoring

The Half Hollow Hills Middle School mentoring program is a friendship based program that provides a middle school student with a one-on-one supportive relationship with a caring, responsible adult. This gives a needy student a positive role model and teaches them how to obtain help from an adult. As a positive relationship develops, it can help a child develop a sense of self-worth and self-realization.

Research has shown that mentoring has real educational benefits. A 2001 Harris poll showed that 73% of mentored students raised their goals and expectations, 87% of mentored students went on to attend college, and 59% of mentored students improved their grades. As a result, the School and Business Partnership Advisory Council is an active participant in this program as a resource for mentors.



The Long Island Mentoring Partnership's *Excellence in Mentoring* award is presented to a selected mentoring program that is committed to running a safe and successful mentoring program. In 2001, the *Excellence in Mentoring* award was presented to the Half Hollow Hills Central School District, KPMG and Estee Lauder, who partnered with the School and Business Partnership Advisory Council in its mentoring initiatives. In the spring of 2003, Linda Julia, Mentoring Advisor at the Candlewood Middle School, was presented with the coordinator's recognition award given by the Mentoring Partnership.

Candlewood Middle School Mentor Program

by Linda Julia, Candlewood Mentoring Program Advisor

The Mentoring Program at Candlewood Middle School is completing its fifth year, and has developed meaningful and lasting relationships between Candlewood students and community business leaders. Success stories include the personal growth of both the student and the mentor, and relationships often extend beyond the middle school years.

For example, one of our middle school students experiencing difficulty was teamed with a young woman who became her role model. The team remains in contact today, even though the student has moved on to high school, where she is excelling both academically and socially. Another mentor and student team found a meaningful relationship based on their shared interest in technology. The mentor, a computer technology manager, assisted the student through a difficult loss of his grandmother. The team continues to meet weekly. A student with difficulty communicating in the classroom entered Candlewood as a sixth grader, and was referred to the mentor program by her guidance counselor. After two years in the program, the student has little difficulty participating in classroom discussion, and engages in conversation with her peers and adults.

Interested in Mentoring?

Are you a working parent who can take your lunch hour to meet a student and share a brown bag lunch? Are you an early riser who would enjoy starting out the day by having breakfast with a child? Are you a senior citizen who would like to give a valuable hour of your day to help someone? Maybe you're a college student with experiences you could share with a high schooler. Or perhaps your company is considering community service. Mentors come in all shapes, sizes and ages. They are people who want to make a difference.

Here is what some mentors have to say:

- "My mentee has learned about commitment, focus, friendship and that people care for others."
- "My mentee now has a role model and guidance on how to deal with life's problems."
- "My mentee has more self-confidence."
- "I have gained a new friend. My time is definitely worth it."
- "I have gained a first-hand knowledge of some of the problems that students face today."

We have a waiting list of middle school students who need a caring, adult mentor. Please join us by calling Susan Genicoff, Director, School and Business Partnership Advisory Council at 631-592-3061, or e-mail her at sgenicoff@halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us. These children will thank you for sharing their lives.

Commerce Plaza

If you had a fifth grader this year, hopefully he or she had the opportunity to participate in one of our most popular programs, Commerce Plaza. An elementary school program at the fifth grade level,

Commerce Plaza is a non-profit organization that runs a unique, hand-on simulated business community on the grounds of the Plainedge School District. On-site

businesses include Washington Mutual, McDonald's, Xerox, LIPA, and Kemper Insurance.

To prepare students for a visit to Commerce Plaza, a six-week curriculum is introduced into the classroom to teach

students basic principles of economics and careers. They also learn the specific skills needed to act as retail operators, producers of services, and consumers for the day. The on-site, experiential learning experience at

Commerce Plaza completes this curriculum.

It was Commerce Plaza that motivated a sixth grade girl at Candlewood Middle School to help the families affected

by the tragedy of September 11th. She decided to sell American Flag decals and send the money directly to the 9-11 Fund.



"My favorite part of Commerce Plaza was walking around and seeing how different jobs worked."

"At Commerce Plaza, I learned how to deposit checks and how to balance a checkbook."

"At Commerce Plaza, I learned that jobs take a lot of time and patience."

Third Grade Students Go to Work

As a culmination of a six-lesson curriculum, Half Hollow Hills third graders have an opportunity to experience first hand the value of work as a source of income, as a means of increasing self-esteem and as a means of providing products and services needed by society. Our children are also engaged in a process of self assessment relative to their interests and skills. Participating companies have included Austin Travel, Commerce Bank, CosmoCom, David Lerner & Associates,



Mrs. Goldschmidt's (Signal Hill) trip to Xerox Corporation



Ms. Mohammed's (Paumanok) trip to David Lerner & Associates

Design Distributors, Five Towns College, GEICO, Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center, Half Hollow Hills Community Library, HSBC Bank, Huntington Hills Center for Health & Rehabilitation,

Huntington Hospital, Keyspan, King Kullen, KPMG, Melville Marriott, New York Islanders/Dragons, Oheka Castle, OSI Pharmaceuticals, PALL, Pediatric Drs. Danzi and Hajduk, Suffolk County Court System, Stonybrook University, UPS and Xerox. This year, 25 of 36 third grade classes in the district participated in this program.



Ms. Kastin's (Paumanok) trip to OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Visit Us on the Web!

Visit the School and Business Partnership Advisory Council's website for up-to-date information on activities and programs, and to view recent pictures and video of Half Hollow Hills students enjoying our initiatives. Just click on: www.halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us/page.cfm?p=48

KPMG Visits Sunquam Elementary School



In April, Ms. Jen Katsch of KPMG in Melville, business partner to Ms. Dana Moore's third grade at Sunquam Elementary School, visited with the class prior to their on-site trip as part of the Third Grade Students Go to Work program. Amazed at how well prepared the class was for her visit, Ms. Katsch was bombarded with a barrage of questions on her job as an accountant. They received helpful information on topics including training, test taking, evaluations, dress code, promotions, teamwork, motivation, writing, punctuality and job pride.

Ms. Katsch explained that when she was in college, she took an accounting class that led to a summer internship at KPMG. She enjoyed it so much that she has been with KPMG ever since. Her advice to the students was to take a classroom job that they like, and to watch out for activities they enjoy as they grow up. Ms. Katsch told the children that everything that they are studying in school today can be used at KPMG, and she emphasized the importance of flexibility. She also discussed appropriate business attire and professional behavior. The students were well-prepared for their visit to KPMG, and everyone looked forward to going to work!



Our Trip to the New York Islanders

by Scott McElhiney, third grade teacher, Forest Park

My third grade class spent two weeks during the 2003-2004 school year studying about the business world. Students were challenged to identify their strengths and weaknesses as they developed a personal resumé. Class discussions centered on professionalism, and students learned that the way they speak, dress, and act reflect how others perceive them.

Our business partner was the New York Islanders/Dragons. The students were immediately excited about the prospect of visiting the teams. Ms. Heather Umen, who handles community relations for the Islanders/Dragons organization, visited with them at Forest Park. She discussed the many facets of the business and all that goes into a successful sports organization.

The program culminated with a trip to Nassau Coliseum. Students toured the building, visiting the executive offices, the press room, the locker room and the owner's suite. The highlight of the trip was watching the Islanders during their morning practice. After the practice, coaches, players, radio and television announcers and writers spoke to the students about their different job responsibilities. The players were then kind enough to sign autographs and take pictures with the students.



The Big Bad Wolf Goes on Trial

by Ellen Keuling, Third Grade Teacher
Sunquam Elementary School

The children in Mrs. Keuling and Ms. Leslie's third grade class held their own trials as a result of their class participation in the Students Go to Work program. Inspired by their business partner, Judge Freundlich's courtroom at the Suffolk County Court, these imaginative teachers extended the third grade curriculum based on their students' memorable experience. Spurred on by class excitement at being interviewed by a judge, lawyers, a court stenographer, a court clerk or a court officer, they decided to try these careers out through role playing in their classroom.

The class read *The Three Little Pigs* and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* as a reference. Then the students put the Big Bad Wolf on trial for malicious intent when he blew down two pigs' houses and unsuccessfully tried to blow down the third pig's house. Each child in the class decided which position in the court interested them the most, based on their observation in Judge Freundlich's courtroom. There were three separate trials so that each child would have a chance to role play their career choice. The lawyers either prosecuted or defended the wolf. The three pigs were on hand as witnesses, as was the wolf. The judge listened carefully to the lawyers' objections and ruled on the motions. The court officers kept peace in the court. The jury deliberated and came out with different rulings based on what they heard in each of the trials. What a wonderful way to integrate learning!



Send Us Your News!

Are you a teacher or administrator integrating career education into your curriculum? Are you a parent who has found a unique way to introduce career-related information into family activities? Perhaps you are an area employer who wants a voice in preparing our students for future jobs at your company. If so, we want to hear from you!

Please contact us via e-mail at sgenicoff@halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us or call Susan Genicoff, Director, School and Business Partnership Advisory Council, at 631-592-3061. Your input is most welcome and will help enable us to further expand our efforts for the betterment of our educational and business communities.

Watch for These and More New Programs in 2004-2005!