



Corridor of Peace

The Start ...

- ❖ *The Corridor of Peace Project was initiated by the Rocky Point Rotary Club U.S.A. .*
- ❖ *The "Corridor of Peace" is an adaptation of the International Cities of Peace movement for our area.*
- ❖ *The project was the 402nd to receive the International City of Peace designation.*
- ❖ *Rocky Point Rotary Club U.S.A. was the 2nd Rotary Club in the world to receive the designation.*
- ❖ *The mission of the project is to "increase the peace" in the catchment area.*

Where is it?

The “corridor” consists of 4 school districts:

Shoreham-Wading River, Longwood,

Miller Place and Rocky Point.

What's the goal?

The goal is to "increase the peace" for the residents in the corridor. In this context, peace is defined a little differently than the usual meaning. International Cities of Peace® defines peace as the global consensus values of Safety, Prosperity, and Quality of Life.

The Consensus Values of Peace are about Freedom

- ❖ *Safety: Freedom from risk of injury, danger or loss*
- ❖ *Prosperity: Freedom to achieve a good standard of living*
- ❖ *Quality of Life: Freedom to enjoy health and happiness*

What will happen here?

- *Organizations and individuals within the corridor will, as part of the initiative, take steps to improve the safety, prosperity and quality of life for the residents in the covered area.*
- *These steps can be forming a neighborhood watch, cleaning the beach, starting an after school program — in short, anything that meets the goals stated above for improving life in the area.*

What will happen there?

- *Increasing the peace in the corridor does not have to be limited to initiatives located in the corridor. Participating in activities in other areas, countries or continents can be contributors to the peace in our local area.*
- *For example, the International Project of the Rocky Point Rotary Club is the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Fund Home in Meru, Kenya. The orphanage was opened in 2005. It now houses 87 children. (see below for more information)*

What's Happened So Far

- ❖ *Meetings with some of the 10 civic associations in the coverage area*
- ❖ *Meetings and commitment from 3 of the 4 school districts*
- ❖ *Peace Pole initiative is thriving*
- ❖ *To date we have delivered or "planted" 22 Peace Poles in our catchment area.*
- ❖ *There is a map of the peace poles at: Rotarypeacepoles.world.*
- ❖ *In one of our local schools, the Peace Pole is where students go to resolve differences!*

Notable Next Steps

- ❖ *11/22/25 will be declared by Rotary to be "Peace Pole Day" on Long Island.*
- ❖ *Stay tuned for the official public declaration.*

For more information

The International Project of the Rocky Point Rotary Club is the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Fund Home in Meru, Kenya. The orphanage was opened in 2005. It now houses 87 children who attend 23 educational institutions. The home features a computer lab, 10 acre farm, an animal husbandry program and two greenhouses. We hope to open the Matovich Technical Training and Cultural Center this year.

*For more about HCF check out: hopechildrensfund.org or
contact Kevin Mann @kevinmannmail@gmail.com*

Thank you

Corridor of Peace Steering Committee

- ❖ *Kevin Mann*
- ❖ *Sharon Idtensohn*
- ❖ *Patrice Perreca*
- ❖ *John McNamara*
- ❖ *Brian Morris*



Peace You Must Seek

Written by Keith O'Brien A.S.C.A.P.

1. Let me share some thoughts with you to
ease your worried mind. Heed my words
and listen close for some wisdom you may
find.

Love, Joy and Happiness you will find in
those you meet, but in your life you will find,
it's Peace that you must seek.

2. Peace in the world is what we all want to
see,

But Peace in Heart and Spirit must start
inside of you and me.

If you show to those you meet the kindness
in your heart, you will find that love will
spread and Peace will start.

Refrain:

So let your love show so Peace may grow.
Let your light shine for all to see. Let's sing
together so we may live in harmony.

3. A hand shake or a nod or even a simple
'Hello.'

Could go a long, long way for someone,
you may never know.

It's just a simple gesture, it doesn't take
much for you to do, but it could make a
difference to someone from you.

Refrain:

Bridge:

Be a Healer or a Story Teller that bring
healing and hope, be a Teacher or a Peace
Builder who inspire kindness through
deeds.

Be a Poet who writes of Love, or a Song
Writer who sings of Peace.

4. So let love start within your heart but first
you must love yourself, do not hide your
love away like a book upon a dusty shelf.

To show kindness to others is a virtue we all
must show, so share your talents with those
in need and like a seed, Peace will grow.

Refrain:



Corridor of PEACE PROJECT

Longwood Central School District is proud to launch the Corridor of Peace Project, a district-wide initiative dedicated to fostering peace, unity, and inclusion within our schools and the broader community.

Inspired by the principles of the Peace Pole movement and the success of similar initiatives, this project serves as a visible and action-driven commitment to building a culture of respect, understanding, and positive social change.



THE LONGWOOD JOURNEY

AUTHORED BY STUDENTS FROM LONGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL*

Longwood Central School District is one of the region's oldest and most respected high school educational institutions, serving a diverse community across nearly 60 square miles in Suffolk County, New York. The district's rich history reflects the early settlement of Long Island, when families of English, Irish, Italian, and other descents established small farming communities that eventually evolved into vibrant suburban neighborhoods.

In its early years, education in Longwood was provided through modest one-room schoolhouses that served local families. These humble beginnings laid the foundation for a strong community commitment to learning, and over time, the district grew alongside the community, adapting to the changing needs of its residents.

As the population expanded, Longwood Central School District transformed its educational offerings to meet the demands of a growing student body. New facilities were constructed, and the district gradually evolved from its early, small-scale operations into a modern educational system that now serves approximately 9,000 students across seven schools: Longwood High School, Longwood Junior High School, Longwood Middle School, Coram Elementary, Ridge Elementary, West Middle Island Elementary, and Charles E Walters Elementary.

In recent decades, the district has embraced innovative teaching practices and integrated advanced technology into classrooms, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the challenges of the 21st century. This evolution has been guided by a commitment to academic excellence, equity, and holistic development, reflecting the changing dynamics of education and community life.

Community involvement has always been a cornerstone of Longwood's success. Through partnerships with local businesses, cultural organizations, and civic groups, the district has built a collaborative network that enhances educational opportunities and supports the well-being of all its students and families.

Today, Longwood Central School District stands as a dynamic learning community where tradition meets innovation. Our slogan, "Every one...Every day," shows our commitment to ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education each and every day. This guiding principle is at the heart of all our initiatives and decisions, fostering a culture of inclusivity, excellence, and continuous improvement.

The district's current strategic goals further reinforce this commitment focusing on:

- **Strong Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Practices:** Longwood is committed to developing strong curriculum and instructional practices that support our students in developing the necessary tools to be successful and productive members of our local and global communities.

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THE LONGWOOD JOURNEY (CONTINUED) ...

- Empowered Students, Staff and School Community: Longwood is committed to cultivating a culture of dignity, respect, and support that empowers everyone to continuously push their limits to learn and grow each day.
- Collaborative School and Community Partnerships: Longwood is committed to building and maintaining strong community partnerships to ensure that each of our school community members feel welcomed and connected to the work of our schools.
- Efficient and Effective Operations: Longwood is committed to ensuring efficient, organized, streamlined, and well-managed operations to support our commitments and promote success for all.

Looking ahead, Longwood remains dedicated to building on its proud legacy by investing in professional development, embracing new educational technologies, and further strengthening community partnerships. This forward-thinking approach ensures that Longwood Central School District will continue to serve as a beacon of educational excellence for generations to come.

*Credit: Longwood Journey

<https://sites.google.com/longwoodcsd.org/longwoodjourney/home> Date accessed 2/27/25



SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT TEAM (SET)

The Longwood Central School District is dedicated to fostering empowered students, staff, and a thriving school community through the School Empowerment Team (SET). Meeting monthly, the SET engages in discussions and activities aimed at improving district and school culture. Our primary objective is to develop action teams that reflect on our school culture and intentionally respond to the diverse needs of our community. By empowering all stakeholders, we aim to create a supportive and dynamic educational environment.

The SET framework is built around six key areas:

1. **Promoting a Culture of Attendance** – Led by the Attendance Action Team, this initiative focuses on ensuring regular attendance and active engagement in school.
2. **Student Discipline** – Guided by the Wellness Team/Data Team, this area addresses student behavior and well-being, creating a balanced approach to discipline.
3. **Restorative Practices and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports** – Supported by District RPBIS Coaches and the Building-Level RPBIS Action Team, this component promotes strategies for restorative discipline and proactive behavioral support.
4. **Equity** – District/Building Community & Culture Action Team champions efforts to promote fairness and inclusivity, ensuring that every student has access to quality education.
5. **District Branding** – The Beautification Action Team works on initiatives to enhance the district's visual identity and community perception.
6. **District and Community Professional Development (PD)** – This area focuses on building and sustaining the capacity of our staff and community partners through ongoing professional learning opportunities.

Together, these framework areas empower our district to continually improve and adapt to the needs of our students and community, ensuring that every day and every one is supported in their journey toward academic and personal success.



COMMUNITY AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

The Community & Culture Committee is a branch of SET, and is tasked with gathering diverse perspectives from across the district ensuring that the voices of students, staff, families, and community members are heard and integrated into our decision-making processes. By engaging a wide array of stakeholders, the committee plays a vital role in assessing how current school practices impact the community and in identifying opportunities for growth and improvement. Through its work, the Community & Culture Committee helps shape policies and practices that reflect our shared values, ultimately building a culture of inclusion, respect, and empowerment throughout our schools.

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COMMUNITY AND CULTURE COMMITTEE (CONTINUED) ...

Moreover, the committee is instrumental in planning and executing initiatives that celebrate and enhance our community's rich cultural diversity. From organizing events that foster community engagement to designing professional development opportunities for staff, the committee ensures that our schools not only reflect the diversity of our district but also actively work to build bridges between different groups. In doing so, the Community & Culture Committee contributes to a more dynamic and collaborative school culture that prepares our students to thrive in an interconnected world.

Finally, the committee is charged with establishing regular meeting schedules and planning future activities that address emerging needs and priorities. Through its ongoing efforts, the Community & Culture Committee provides a structured forum for continuous improvement ensuring that our schools remain responsive to the evolving needs of the community and committed to a shared vision of excellence.



COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

The Corridor of Peace Project extends beyond the classroom, encouraging families and community members to take an active role in fostering a culture of peace and understanding. Through collaborative initiatives, Longwood strengthens relationships between students, educators, parents, and local organizations.

- **Longwood Day** - An annual community celebration held at Longwood High School in Yaphank, NY. This event features local vendors, live music, arts, interactive activities, cultural performances, youth sports, food, and a variety of community groups and organizations. Typically held in the spring, Longwood Day brings together families and community members for a day of fun, creativity, and connection.
- **Kindergarten Playgroup** - Helping new students acclimate to school and make friends.
- **Back to School Picnic** - Bringing families together to start the school year.
- **CEW Fall Festival & Winter Wonderland** – Seasonal activities for families.
- **Bingo Night** - Encouraging fun and family bonding.
- **Let's Get Healthy Night** - Promoting physical health and wellness.
- **Color Run** - A fundraiser promoting school spirit and fitness.
- **Art Show & Science Fair** - Showcasing student creativity and scientific exploration.
- **Trunk or Treat** - A fun, family-friendly event that emphasizes community unity, safety, and inclusiveness, creating a secure and welcoming environment where community members can connect during Halloween.
- **Holidays Around the World** - PTA evening event to celebrate cultural holiday traditions.
- **Veteran's Day Fitness Challenge** - Evening event honoring armed services with student competitions.
- **Family Engagement Evenings for K-1 and 2-4** - Strengthening family-school connections.
- **Finks Farm Fall Celebration** - Evening for families to enjoy outdoor fall activities.
- **PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) Evening Event** - Promoting literacy and family involvement.
- **Talent Shows and Poetry Slams K-12**- Engaging activities for K-12 students that foster creativity, self-expression, and community involvement. These events provide platforms for students to showcase their talents, build confidence, and connect with their peers.
- **Community Carnival** - Fostering community spirit and fun.

STUDENT CLUBS SUPPORTING PEACE AND INCLUSION

Longwood offers a variety of student-led organizations dedicated to fostering peace, inclusion, and leadership. These clubs empower students to become change agents within their schools and communities, advocating for kindness, equity, and social responsibility.

- **African American Culture Club** – Promoting cultural awareness, leadership, and community service.
- **Best Buddies Club** – Fostering one-on-one friendships between students with and without disabilities to break social barriers.
- **Environmental Club** – Encouraging students to engage in sustainability initiatives within the district and beyond.
- **Gay-Straight Alliance (HERO)** – Creating a safe and accepting environment for LGBTQIA+ students and allies.
- **Heritage Student Alliance Club** – Supporting ENL, newcomer, and bilingual students in sharing their culture and educational impact.
- **Pawsitivity PBIS Club** – Promoting positive student interactions and an inclusive school environment.
- **Rotary Interact Club:** The object of the Rotary Interact Club is to encourage and foster the idea of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster each member's service to their community both locally and internationally. Students will take action to make a difference in our school and community by involving themselves with different service oriented projects throughout the year.
- **Women's Empowerment Club** – Raising awareness of women's rights and issues affecting girls and women in the community.
- **World Culture and Language Club & National Foreign Language Honor Society** – Celebrating cultural diversity and engaging in community service initiatives.
- **My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper Mentoring Programs** – Providing mentorship and support to promote leadership, academic success, and personal growth among students.
- **Pride Club**– Providing a safe and welcoming space for LGBTQ+ students and allies to connect and promote acceptance.
- **PS I Love You Day** – A district-wide initiative promoting kindness, mental health awareness, and anti-bullying through student and staff participation in various activities.
- **Fire and Emergency Services Volunteerism Day**– Engaging students with local fire departments and law enforcement agencies to learn about volunteerism and public safety careers.
- **World Day of Bullying Prevention and Unity Day**– Raising awareness about bullying prevention and promoting kindness through student participation in wearing blue and orange.

ARTS, MUSIC, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Art and music play an essential role in expressing messages of peace and unity.

Throughout the year, students participate in **peace-themed art projects, musical performances, and cultural events** celebrating diversity and harmony.



- **Concerts, Plays, and Art Shows** - Encouraging community pride and engagement through student performances.
- **Islip Airport Holiday Concert** - Featuring high school ensembles to spread holiday cheer.
- **Blessings in a Backpack Performance** - Students perform to support local food insecurity initiatives.
- **Marching Band in Yaphank Fire Department Christmas Parade** - Promoting community involvement through music.
- **Brookhaven Ecology Site Holiday Performance** - Showcasing talents from the Harp Ensemble and Junior High School Chamber Orchestra.
- **Martin Luther King Unity Walk** - Organized by the district's Community Connection Committee, the MLK Walk is an annual event attended by hundreds of community members to celebrate diversity, peace, and solidarity.
- **Longwood Day** - An annual event that showcases the district's commitment to community involvement and student achievement.
- **Safe Halloween** - Longwood High School's Late Afternoon Program (LAP) hosts Safe Halloween transforming the hallways into a fun, interactive Halloween adventure for children in the community.
- **Community Barbecue** - More than 1,000 community members attend our annual barbeque, including local fire and police departments, community organizations, local churches, students, and staff to celebrate and strengthen our community bonds.



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MOVING FORWARD: A LASTING COMMITMENT

Through the Corridor of Peace Project, Longwood Central School District is making a bold and visible commitment to fostering a culture where every student feels safe, valued, and empowered to contribute positively to the world. By integrating education, mentorship, leadership development, and community engagement, we are shaping a future where peace is not just a concept, but a way of life.





CORRIDOR OF PEACE PROJECT

The Rocky Point Union Free School District is proud to be a part of the Rocky Point Rotary Club's Corridor of Peace Project, lauded as a true testament to the quest for harmony.

The Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol, standing vigil for peace on earth.

Gifted by the Rotary Club, more than two dozen peace poles have been established in the local Corridor of Peace, enhancing the landscape with their message. The project seeks to unite community members and instill the values of building peace in future generations through a focus on educational institutions.

The Rocky Point High School Interact Club held a Peace Pole dedication ceremony in November 2023, and the Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School Academic Leadership held a ceremony in November 2024 in hopes of bringing people together to inspire, awaken and uplift human consciousness all over the world.

The following includes many of the peace-related projects happening in our four schools.

ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

Athletes Helping Athletes: Athletes Helping Athletes is a student-athlete leadership program sponsored by Molloy University for student athletes in grades 10-12. The purpose of the organization is to partner professional athletes with high school student-athletes to deliver motivational messages and mentor sixth grade students. Student-athletes are trained to present lessons on the prevention of drug, alcohol and smoking abuse, good citizenship, the importance of education, and to encourage the younger students to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities. Membership criteria include a written application, teacher recommendation and an interview.

Be A Nicer Neighbor (BANN): This club is designed to get students to believe that they can make a positive difference: "...that one determined person can alter society." This is a student-driven club. We stress the "find a way, make a way" philosophy. The students develop ways to make things nicer in Rocky Point. We will have a special emphasis on feeding the homeless and helping our soldiers.

Environmental Eagles: The Environmental Eagles are actively involved in contributing to the ecological health of the community. It is for students who are passionate about creating positive environmental change, not only at the school level, but on a community-wide basis.

Gay and Straight Alliance: The Gay and Straight Alliance meets biweekly to provide a supportive community for gay and straight students to discuss relevant issues and to plan and promote educational activities that encourage acceptance of diversity within the school. Typical meetings include games, discussions, movies, event planning and time to have fun. Students, staff and faculty are all welcome.

Human Rights Club: The Rocky Point Human Rights Club was created to provide the student body with a place where they can establish their own ideas on how to become upstanders in society. It is also an atmosphere where students can create and implement action plans of their own to raise awareness of human rights issues and promote activism to make students part of the solution. This club will encourage students to promote human rights and treat each other with dignity and respect. The club annually attends and participates in a conference at Iona College in March.

Interact Club: Interact is the student organization associated with Rotary International. The Rocky Point Rotary Club sponsors our foreign exchange programs. Students in the Interact Club are involved in community service on the school, local, national and international levels. This includes food drives, holiday gift giving, Habitat for Humanity and sponsoring the high school blood drive. The only requirement is the willingness to help others.

Leaders' Club Adviser: The members of the Leaders' Club participate in many service-oriented events. Members help organize and run the Dig Pink Volleyball Breast Cancer Fundraiser. During the holiday season, Leaders' Club members bring food baskets and toiletry bags to local needy families. The members also help coordinate and organize the Athletic Banquet. Leaders' Club is open to all junior varsity and varsity female athletes in grades 9-12.

Math Honor Society: Juniors and seniors are elected into the Math Honor Society based on their math grades and teacher recommendations. The purpose of the Math Honor Society is to encourage the importance of math education among all students. Math Honor Society members tutor students after school or during common free periods.

National Science Honor Society: Juniors and seniors are elected into the Science Honor Society based on their science grades and teacher recommendations. The purpose of the Science Honor Society is to provide unique opportunities to students such as leadership experiences, national academic recognition and cooperation with peers. Science Honor Society members will tutor students at an after-school session.

Peer Networking: This club is dedicated to establishing friendships and providing opportunities for socialization and leadership development for students with disabilities by pairing them with their general education colleagues.

S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions): This is a student-led club designed to help fellow students make responsible decisions and withstand the temptations of peer pressure. S.A.D.D. members are involved in campaigns throughout the year, including Prevention of Bullying, End Drunk Driving, and Making Good Decisions.

Varsity Club: The Varsity Club is for male athletes who would like to be involved in helping with school functions and community service projects. The main function of the Varsity Club is to help develop and build character for our Rocky Point student-athletes. All members will help fundraise, visit local hospitals, support veteran causes, run school dances and work together to support the Varsity Club. These young male athletes have an opportunity to learn lifelong skills that will set them up for success later in their lives. RPHS participates annually in the Suffolk County High School Principal's Association promotion of the program Compassion Without Borders. The program has always been a great way for students to showcase and develop their leadership skills, and the event empowers our students to make a difference in the world.

ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Faculty/Student Mentoring Program: Mentors and mentees commit to spending one period a week together. During that time mentors provide encouragement and discuss mutual interests. The mentor acts as an added support for the mentee. Mentors empower youth to reach their full potential.

Advisory Program: We match up 10-12 students with one faculty member. The groups meet during the school day formally once or twice a month to work on a team-building activity, and informally once a month for a check-in. This is a student-driven program, as an "Advisory Club" of students meets twice a month to design the

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activities. The advisor monitors the students' SEL needs as well as their academic progress.

Beautiful Me Club: The goal of this club is to create a future where students feel empowered and self-confident in all aspects of their lives. The activities and discussions will include learning how to accept compliments, develop coping mechanisms to turn negative thoughts or qualities into positives and tools to become more independent and confident in your own abilities.

Best Buddies Club: This club is dedicated to establishing friendships and providing opportunities for socialization and leadership

development for people with disabilities.

Community Service Club: Students are encouraged to see the impact they can make on their community through Club Advisor organized events. Some Saturday volunteer work may be offered. Community service may need to be delivered via electronic platforms due to restrictions in nursing homes.

Natural Helpers Club: Students are nominated by their peers to a peer board. This peer board will discuss, brainstorm and problem-solve the social issues that affect kids today.

JOSEPH A. EDGAR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

PBIS Program - Eagle POWER: Eagle POWER is JAE's PBIS program designed to improve and maintain school safety, foster a positive school climate and culture, and encourage positive behaviors and interactions between students. There are four grade-level assemblies throughout the school year to promote the program and celebrate our accomplishments, while monthly lessons help educate students on how they can be the best versions of themselves every day. Eagle POWER stands for:

P: We are Proud of the school and community we create here.

O: We Own our learning and are excited to share our discoveries.

W: We Welcome everyone.

E: We have Empathy. We care about our school and the people in our community.

R: We Respect ourselves, others, the people and animals we encounter.

Students work together as a class to build their Eagle POWER and are encouraged to show their Eagle POWER daily. Classes and students are recognized and celebrated in various ways throughout the school year as they let their Eagle POWER shine.

Start With Hello Week: Many students experience feelings of loneliness or social isolation. Start With Hello Week is a program in partnership with the Sandy Hook Promise intended to address these issues by encouraging students to reach out and offer a simple gesture of kindness, which can significantly impact someone's day or overall well-being. JAE participates in Start With Hello Week every September.

Bully Prevention Week: An initiative that highlights the issues of bullying and encourages individuals to act against it. It emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of respect and support, where bullying is not tolerated and every person is valued. JAE participates in Bully Prevention Week every October.

Beautiful Me Program: An educational self-esteem program, participants learn how to think about themselves with confidence and greater insight. The Beautiful Me program is designed to emphasize different aspects of self-awareness, self-reflection and healthy relationships with others. A series of activities and discussions encourage and empower participants. JAE offers this program to its third grade students every year.

Scarecrow KIN Project: A fourth grade tradition for our JAE students is to create baby scarecrows to help raise money for those in need. All fourth grade students will be creating baby scarecrows with their teachers and displaying them around our beautiful school. All JAE students will be invited to view the fourth grade baby scarecrows and vote for their favorites with spare change. All proceeds from this fun, fall activity is sent directly to the RP Kids in Need foundation.

Read-a-Thon: For over 20 years our fourth grade students have been organizing a read-a-thon to benefit the students in Madagascar. Each year as JAE fourth graders read to strengthen their literacy skills, they collect donations to fund the salary of a Madagascar teacher for a year.

Pajama Drive: During the annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive JAE collects brand-new pajamas in all sizes, from newborn to adult. For every pair of pajamas donated Scholastic Book Clubs will donate a brand-new book to the Pajama Program to give to a child facing adversity. At the conclusion of the drive, thousands of children across the nation will have access to essential tools needed to have "Good Nights for Good Days," all thanks to caring students and teachers and the generosity of Scholastic.

'Souper Bowl: JAE works together to help fill those food shelves and tackle hunger. JAE students are encouraged to bring in one or more canned food items to be collected to donate to local food pantries. Encouraging students and individuals to give back during Super Bowl weekend and beyond fosters a movement of generosity and community service. This strengthens our community while making a significant impact on health disparities that affect those who are food insecure.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: During the month of November JAE participates in a schoolwide food drive, collecting nonperishable food donations for local food pantries to help fight hunger and food insecurity.

Veterans Day Celebration: JAE honors our local veterans at our annual Salute to Veterans Assembly. We honor those who have served, are currently serving and those who have died in service to our country. We honor our veterans with musical performances, reading of student essays and poems, student-created video

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presentations, a POW/MIA Remembrance Table presentation, and present our attending veterans with notes and cards of thanks. Our veterans are also treated to light refreshments after our assembly. Honoring veterans can have a positive impact on students by helping them to learn the values of patriotism, empathy, gratitude and the commitment to the greater good. It also builds civic responsibility by teaching students that showing appreciation and empathy is an important part of being a responsible citizen.

Giving Tree: During the month of January JAE participates in a schoolwide collection of warm hats, gloves, scarves and socks. These items are distributed to local organizations that provide the items to those who are in need.

Toy Drive: During the month of December JAE participates in the Town of Brookhaven's Youth Bureau INTERFACE Program Holiday Toy Drive. Students and staff work together to collect toys for children in need in the Town of Brookhaven.

The Great Kindness Challenge: The Great Kindness Challenge is a global campaign that promotes kindness, social-emotional health and bullying prevention in school. It's presented by Kids for Peace and takes place annually. The goal is to create a school culture of kindness, compassion, unity and respect. Students, teachers, administrators, families and communities can all participate. JAE participates in the weeklong, schoolwide event annually.

FRANK J. CARASITI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Start With Hello Week: Start With Hello Week is a program in partnership with the Sandy Hook Promise intended to address issues of loneliness and isolation by encouraging students to reach out and offer a simple gesture of kindness, which can significantly impact someone's day or overall well-being. FJC participates in this program every September. This includes morning announcements, signing a pledge and teaching about kindness.

Bully Prevention Week: An initiative that highlights the issues of bullying and encourages individuals to act against it. It emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of respect and support, where bullying is not tolerated and every person is valued. FJC participates in this initiative with a focus on being a buddy, not a bully. This year, it included saying "Boo to Bullying."

Beautiful Me Program: An educational self-esteem program in which participants learn how to think about themselves with confidence and greater insight. The Beautiful Me program is designed to emphasize different aspects of self-awareness, self-reflection and healthy relationships with others. A series of activities and discussions encourage and empower participants. Kindergarten girls participate in this program every year, led by our guidance counselor.

Pajama Drive: FJC collects new pajamas for local organizations that work with families in need. Each year we collect many pairs of pajamas and celebrate the generosity of families with our own pajama day.

'Soup' Bowl Challenge: FJC works together to help fill those food

Senior Citizen St. Patrick's Day Breakfast and Concert: JAE welcomes our senior community members to our school for a morning of Irish song, fun and food. Our students act as wait staff, taking orders and serving our special guests as they enjoy coffee, tea and bagels and a morning of wonderful musical performance by our chorus. Service-learning projects like this can provide students with practical experience outside the classroom that can help students develop social and personal skills.

Kids Heart Challenge: The Kid's Heart Challenge is a monthlong service-learning program in which JAE students learn about healthy living and raise funds for heart health by partnering with the American Heart Association.

World Down Syndrome Day: On March 21, JAE celebrates World Down Syndrome Day. Students are engaged in lessons to learn what Down syndrome is and how individuals with Down syndrome need to be valued in their communities. JAE students proudly wear mismatched socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and raise awareness.

Autism Acceptance Month: Throughout the month of April students at JAE learn about autism and autism acceptance through class lessons, read-alouds and schoolwide activities. Throughout the month students work together to produce a schoolwide mural depicting autism acceptance and understanding.

shelves and tackle hunger! Second grade classes compete against one another to see who can bring in the most canned items. Over the last couple of years, we've been able to donate record numbers of canned and dried foods to local organizations who help those who are food insecure.

Veterans Day Celebration: Each year second graders at FJC invite veterans to attend our annual Veterans Day Assembly. At this assembly we honor those who have served, make cards for veterans and sing a song to honor their dedication and sacrifice to our nation.

Holiday Angels: Staff and community members donate funds to help us provide baskets and presents to help local families in our community who might not be able to afford it.

The Great Kindness Challenge: The Great Kindness Challenge is a global campaign that promotes kindness, social-emotional health and bullying prevention in school. It's presented by Kids for Peace and takes place annually. The GKC's goal is to create a school culture of kindness, compassion, unity and respect. Students, teachers, administrators, families and communities can all participate in the GKC. Each year, FJC is a participant in the GKC. This includes students completing a checklist of kindness opportunities. Students also participate in a participation station.

Autism Acceptance Month: Students and staff come together to learn more about autism. This includes wearing shirts and pins to show support as well as creating bulletin boards and projects that help students learn more about autism and neurodiversity.



SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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CORRIDOR OF PEACE PROJECT COMMITMENT FORM

Personal Commitment to "Increase the Peace"

Shoreham-Wading River High School:

Celebrate Differences:

Peer Mentoring / Best Buddies - Both directly and indirectly supports students with special needs to be appreciated as valued members of the school community.

Promote Peace:

Global Awareness Club - Mission of the club is to work to promote peace and understanding both locally and across the world.

Foster Compassion:

Compassion Without Borders - Club is a SCHSPA event that brings together student leaders from across the county to promote collaboration and sharing of ideas.

Prodell Middle School:

Support compassion, inclusivity, and tolerance:

Wildcats with Character monthly recognitions.

Wading River School:

Foster a culture of peace through education:

The mission of this Peacemakers Club is both learn and teach SEL strategies to help recognize and manage emotions, promote deep kindness, develop greater empathy, demonstrate additional concern for others, establish relationships, make responsible decisions, and handle challenging situations constructively. Topics will complement our monthly Wildcats with Character Traits and Empowering Minds curriculum, focusing on the growth mindset and impact all students in the building.

Advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity:

The Best Buddies Club at Wading River provides both students with special needs and their general education classmates with opportunities to build friendships, explore the community, develop interpersonal skills while promoting kindness, empathy and compassion.

Foster democratic participation:

All fifth-grade students and their parents/guardians are given an opportunity to journey to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall in Philadelphia, learning about our Nation's history and the importance of participation in our democracy, including voting.

Miller Avenue School:

Celebrate Differences:

The Buddy Builders Club at Miller Avenue provides young students with a supportive environment to develop meaningful connections and enhance their social skills. During our monthly meetings, members work together to create a more inclusive and supportive community through engaging, developmentally appropriate activities. Topics may include:

- Cultivating lasting friendships
- Practicing kindness and empathy
- Developing leadership qualities
- Improving social interaction skills

The following is a reflection on peace by Longwood Junior High School student Anastasia Yanez. Anastasia delivered this reflection on the occasion of the dedication of a peace pole on the grounds of St. Mark's R. C. Church in Shoreham on May 18, 2025.

Good morning everyone,

I am Anastasia Yanez, and I want to talk about something really important in our lives: peace — and how Jesus can bring such peace into our lives

Peace is something everyone wants. It's when we feel calm, collected, and happy. It's when we're not anxious or fighting, but just at ease. But sometimes, the world doesn't seem peaceful. We hear about frightening incidents, or tensions between other parts of the world. In those times, it's quite easy to forget that peace is still possible. But, there's something really important to know: Jesus can bring us peace, no matter what.

Jesus is called the *Prince of Peace* in Isaiah 9:6, and that's not just a title — it means He came to teach us how to have peace in our hearts and share that peace with others. When Jesus was on Earth, He didn't just talk about peace; He showed us how to live it. He taught us to forgive, to be kind, and to love even the people who don't treat us well, to treat others the way you want to be treated. In Matthew 5:9, He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Jesus says this because peace doesn't just happen on its own — it takes work. And He wants us to be part of that work.

But how does Jesus bring peace to us today? Well, even when life gets tough or we feel scared, we can pray to Jesus and He helps us feel better. His peace isn't like the world's peace. It doesn't go away when things are hard — it stays with us. It's the kind of peace that calms our hearts, no matter what's going on around us. He wants us to treat others with kindness—with peace. A simple act of kindness can go such a long way for someone. We don't need to be perfect like Jesus, but every little act of kindness makes a difference.

The next time you feel anxious, scared of the future, or anything in that category, remember that He is with us forever. He won't abandon you, and He's with you through the ups and downs. Jesus is the way to truly feel peaceful and happy.

Thank you.