The district has added three new faces to the administrative team. Bryan Miltenberg was named the new assistant principal of the middle school; John Sparacio has taken over as director of health, physical education and athletics; and Priscilla Zarate was appointed the new ENL and world language K-12 coordinator.

Miltenberg was most recently middle school dean at Scholars’ Academy in Rockaway Park, Queens, where he also worked as peer collaborative/lead teacher for humanities, professional learning team leader, seventh-grade team leader and seventh-grade humanities teacher. He began his career as an educator as an English teacher at Wantagh High School.

Sparacio had served for nine years as athletic director for the North Babylon School District. He worked in the West Islip School District from 1997 to 2008 as a physical education teacher, high school dean of students, and coach for high school and middle school wrestling, football and softball.

Zarate had been executive director of the New York City Department of Education’s Division of English Language Learners and Student Support since 2015. She previously worked as a coordinator for bilingual, ENL and dual-language programs at the Brentwood and Long Beach districts as well as the Christa McAuliffe School in Queens.
A Message from the Superintendent

Dear School Community Members,

As I reflect on the last 10 years, I am proud to say Islip has made great strides in becoming a district that meets the needs of our students in an ever-changing world. This is evidenced by our academic initiatives and the results they garner: a 98 percent graduation rate, our literacy program at the elementary schools, Algebra I at the middle school (with a 90 percent pass rate), our Gifted and Talented EXCEL Program, our business and STEM academies, our in-house cosmetology program and so much more. In addition, Islip has earned recognition as one of the “Best Communities for Music Education” from the NAMM Foundation because of our outstanding music programs. Our special education and English as a New Language programs, along with our support services, help us meet the needs of all students.

At the secondary level, our extracurricular activities allow our students to engage in activities from athletics to Science Olympiads and, of course, our facility and grounds renovations have provided an outstanding place to do so. What makes Islip even more special is the humanitarian focus that teaches our students compassion and citizenship.

The students, staff and community have been my family since 2008. It is with mixed emotions that I share that the 2017-18 school year will be my last in education. Beginning next July, I will start a new chapter as I enter retirement and return my focus to being a wife and mother.

We still have much work to do this year, and the Islip Schools family is ready to make 2017-18 one of its best years yet. I have always wanted to be an educator, and I am so proud to end my career as a Buccaneer.

Sincerely,
Susan A. Schnebel
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Corner

The district has revised its special education programs for the 2017-2018 school year.

At the middle school, a new Life Skills class has been added. Students participating in the program will receive special education instruction based on functional reading, writing and math skills. They are assessed using the New York State Alternate Assessment eligibility criteria and will typically graduate with a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential. CDOS learning standards are embedded within the classroom instruction.

The Integrated Co-Teaching inclusion class that was started last year in grade two at Commack Road has moved up to third grade, with a second-grade ICT inclusion class added at Sherwood. Participating students will receive special education support within the general education setting with their peers. A special education teacher and a general education teacher provide specially designed instruction and academic instruction to all students within the classroom setting.

Preparing for Careers with Summer Work Program

Four industrious high school students – senior Joshua Monteforte and juniors Malik Ellis, Victoria Lockamy and Chrystal Weiner – participated in the district’s Summer Youth Employment Program in conjunction with the Suffolk County Department of Labor, earning valuable hands-on experience.

During the seven-week program, the students worked for five hours a day from Monday through Thursday throughout the district. Under the direction of Director of Facilities Brian Graham and the high school’s head custodian, Steve Saidler, they worked inside with the custodial crew and outside with the district grounds operation, assisting on a multitude of projects. They also met weekly with Graham and local vendors to discuss possible career paths, work readiness and employability skills.

“This program truly helps students prepare for a career, not just for college,” said Superintendent Susan Schnebel.

Dear Community Residents,

At a regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Sept. 12, Superintendent of Schools Susan Schnebel notified the board of her intent to retire, effective June 30, 2018. On behalf of the entire board, we thank Mrs. Schnebel for her dedicated years of service to the Islip School District and appreciate her efforts during her tenure to make the district what it is today. She has faithfully served Islip, something that is evident in the success of our students. Our board is saddened that this will be her last year, but we wish her well as she begins the next chapter of her life.

In the coming weeks, the board will meet to discuss and develop a plan for the recruitment of a new superintendent. Along with district stakeholders, we need to identify the qualifications and characteristics the next district leader should possess. We will continue to keep the community updated as we develop this plan, and look forward to the community’s input.

Sincerely,

Board of Education President Brian Clock
The district is in its fourth year of construction work under the Investing in Islip capital program and in the process of closing out several projects on its summer 2017 project schedule. This was the most ambitious schedule undertaken by the district in one year, and the results have greatly enhanced all district facilities. Approximately $15 million of work was performed districtwide through 24 projects and 41 contractor awards. Despite challenges, including the volume of work to be conducted within a two-month window and unforeseen conditions in buildings constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, all work was substantially completed in time for the opening of school, and students and staff have benefited from the end results. Highlights include:

- Renovation of 58 bathrooms districtwide.
- New pavement, curbing and sidewalks at the elementary schools and the extension of the bus loop at Sherwood with a separate parent drop-off area.
- Installation of 51 unit ventilators in Sherwood and Commack Road classrooms to ensure fresh air intake and circulation.
- New HVAC systems in building main offices, nurses' offices and faculty rooms, along with boiler room upgrades.
- New air handlers in gyms and the high school wrestling room, along with 46 new rooftop fans.
- Elementary school auditorium renovations, including new ventilation systems, ceiling replacements, and sound and lighting upgrades.
- Middle school auditorium renovations, including new ventilation systems, sound and lighting upgrades, ceiling repairs, stage-floor refinishing, and new carpeting and seats.
- Upgrades in four high school science rooms that include new electrical service, lighting improvements, data feeds and a new exhaust fan.
- New serving-line equipment at the Commack Road kitchen.
- Safety and security improvements throughout the district that include new emergency lighting, fire alarm upgrades and new public address systems.

The high school kicked off two initiatives in recent months aimed at improving its campus environment.

The first project created a senior patio outside of the cafeteria that resembles a college setting and encourages students to remain on-site for lunch. Students in the school’s computer-aided design class were invited to submit plans for the patio. Principal Michael Mosca, Assistant Superintendent for Business Michael Zeterberg and Director of Facilities Brian Graham met with the winning student to review the top design and incorporated its elements into the final plan. The selected tables and benches complement the other seating already in place across the front of the building, and decorative plantings around the perimeter of the patio further enhance the setting.

The sign at the high school’s front entrance is in the process of being replaced with a state-of-the-art electronic LED sign. This new sign will allow for display of multiple messages that can be posted and updated from remote locations. The project, a collaborative effort of Mr. Mosca, Mr. Zeterberg, Mr. Graham and IT Coordinator James Prudente, will improve communication by sharing announcements with students and the community and enhance the entrance’s aesthetics.
Pesticide Management Notification

In compliance with recently approved New York State Education Law, the Islip School District is required to provide written notification to all parents/guardians, faculty and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the year.

The district is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remaining unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application.
- Antimicrobial products.
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children.
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile, ready-to-use pastes, foams or gels in areas inaccessible to children.
- Boric acid and disodiumoctaborate tetrahydrate.
- The application of EPA-designated biopesticides.
- The application of EPA-designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25.
- The use of aerosol products with a direct spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from the threat of stinging and biting insects, including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please submit a written request including your name, address, telephone number and school to our Plant Facilities Administrator, Islip Public Schools, 215 Main Street, Islip, NY 11751, or fax to 631-650-8448.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Islip School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristic, domestic violence victim status, or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or federal nondiscrimination laws in its educational programs and activities, or employment practices, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the district’s nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Mrs. Kate O’Callaghan, Executive Director of PPS and Special Education, Islip High School, 2508 Union Blvd., Islip, NY 11751, Phone: 631-650-8415.

Community and Creativity

Highlight Homecoming

With purple-clad well-wishers lining Main Street and our mascot Bucky the Buccaneer leading the way, the Islip school community began its homecoming celebration on Sept. 16 with a proud parade, highlighted by floats created by each class at the high school.

First came the freshmen with a take on the “Magic School Bus,” followed by the sophomores’ “Willy Wonka”-themed float and the juniors’ winning “Alice in Wonderland” creation. The seniors and their “Clifford the Big Red Dog” float claimed the prize for most spirit. A festive carnival followed the parade.

In the football contest later that afternoon, Islip’s valiant varsity Bucs played hard but fell short against Bellport, 37-20. During halftime, the school’s marching band, cheerleaders and kickline put on spectacular shows. Billy Bowling was named homecoming king and Kassidy Mullins was crowned homecoming queen. The pair was joined at center stage by homecoming court members Ryan Abravanel, Nicole Arey, Ashley Howell, Kristen Julich, Justin Kerr, Grace Klomp, John Luzzul, Kristopher McDonald, gia Sciarra and sean Skahan.

“As always, this year’s homecoming demonstrated how amazing this community is,” said Principal Michael Mosca. “It was great to see the entire town come together to support their school.”

Inside Islip Schools

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