

# Middle School Monthly

North Shore Middle School

December

Edition 3, Volume 8

## *Principals Message*

Are you ready for the holidays? Perhaps you need to read something inspiring? If so, read on...

Did you know that our students raised close to \$10,000 dollars on **E3 Day** for local and national level charities? Our kids sang for seniors, raked leaves for neighbors that needed assistance, and baked for the Inn in Glen Cove, made scarves for our soldiers and planted spring blooming bulbs in the front of our school. Our army of 700+ teenagers and tweenagers mobilized and made a difference for thousands of people in our community and beyond!

Our winter concerts were wonderful! I challenge you to find another middle level concert that sounds that good! Over 400 of our students are involved in after school sports and that doesn't include our sixth grade students that participate in a wide range of clubs and intramural activities.

At the same time that our students are taking time out to make a difference for others, they are focused on learning. If you look at our achievement scores on Regents exams, the results are astonishing. If you examine our average student GPA, again, the results are astonishing. At the same time, when we survey our students they report being happy, challenged, and engaged in school. They report that their teachers, peers, and parents are supportive and caring. This is good news for our children because the research shows that when you have all three of those groups in tact, your engagement and achievement levels will soar! If you would like to see the data on this, I have it in my office and I love talking about it so please come on in!

As the holidays approach, I know I have a lot to be thankful for. Mostly, I feel so lucky to be part of a school community filled with so many wonderful students, teachers, and families. I thank you for this opportunity and I wish you a very happy December!

Sincerely,  
Marc Ferris

## **Guidance Happenings**

### **Attention all 8th grade parents!**

High school planning is around the corner. Mrs. Finning will be pushing in to your child's classes before the holiday break to discuss the expectations and course options at the high school. Please ask your child to share this information with you and open a dialogue about their course interests. Also, there will be an informative parent meeting for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents at the high school on January 18th at 7:00pm.

### **Mix It Up Day Was a Success!**

On Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, the middle hosted its annual Mix It Up at Lunch day. Students in every grade were asked to break down social barriers and sit outside of their normal social cliques at lunch time. With the help of a few high school seniors and the PTA, the Guidance Department organized a variety of fun activities to create a party atmosphere, where students had an opportunity to spend time with their peers and share a common positive experience. We hope events like these continue to foster our E3 message...Everyone Matters, Everyone Cares and Everyone Learns!

### **E3 Guidance Award Winners**

Congratulations to 8th grader Tommy Wilson, 7th grader Christina Jud, and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Jacqueline Long, on receiving the first E3 guidance award for demonstrating caring and kindness to others! Stay tune for our next award recipients.