

# MUFSD Tiger Tracks

March, 2016

## March Showcases Many Pockets of Excellence in Our District!

This month in the Mamaroneck School District, we celebrate the multiple pockets of excellence that are evident every day in the hallways of our school buildings. From music, theatre and art, to athletics, science, technology and writing, March brought many exciting student accomplishments and learning experiences. Our Boys Varsity Ice Hockey Team Brought Home their first-ever State Championship, and our Girls 4x800 Relay team became National Champions (also a first). Our [Music Department celebrated jazz band awards and a record # of All-State participants](#). [OSR raked in top science awards](#), and our middle and high school students celebrated the announcement that they received awards for their writing.



**Mamk brings home top awards from Westchester Science & Engineering Fair**



**Hockey State Champs, shown above; Girls Relay National Champs, below.**



**March was filled with music honors, including a record number of All-State participants**



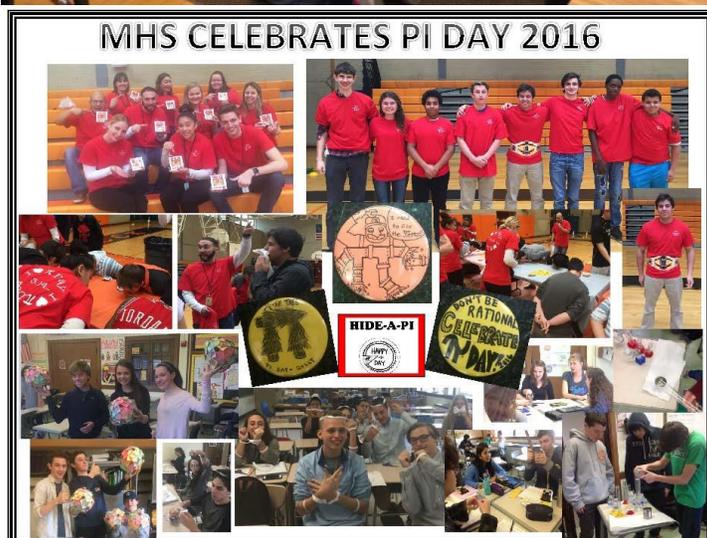
## Technology Transforming Learning

Beyond celebrating student achievements this month, we also have been celebrating the transformative learning experiences taking place each day in our classrooms through the innovative use of technology. Here are just a couple examples: Our 3rd graders in Mr. Taylor's class at MAS delved deep into ocean learning without leaving the classroom when they participated in a Skype session with a prominent oceanographer. Students enjoyed this virtual interaction, learning about marine science using a Smart TV/iPad. The iPad's camera enabled Dr. Findlay to see the students, and the Smart TV presented the students with a high definition, crisp, clear video of Dr. Findlay as she taught them about her work and answered their questions. And, just recently, in a Dos Caminos dual language class at MAS, [students Skyped in Spanish with a geophysicist](#), who answered their questions from Mexico about earthquakes and tsunamis and conducted an experiment to show how waves are formed during these events.



## MHS Celebrates All Things Mathematical on Pi Day

Mamaroneck High School's Math Department organized and put on the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pi Day Celebration, with class periods throughout the week continuing the tradition of celebrating and exploring all things mathematical. Students encountered many engaging, thought-provoking and enriching real-world math applications and experiences. Mathematical activities for students ranged from exploring interesting math patterns through construction of geometric sculptures, investigating single and double twist Mobius strips, uncovering mathematical, scientific and technological intricacies of origami paper folding, and experimenting with volumes via hands-on scientific trials.



## Hommocks and MHS Students Win Regional & National Writing Awards; Nat'l Winner Callie Zola to Be Honored at Carnegie Hall

Six Hommocks Middle School students and four MHS students have been named recipients of the 2016 Scholastic Art and Writing awards, announced earlier this month. MHS sophomore Callie Zola won a national Gold Medal (her second) for her non-fiction piece "[A Wrinkle In Dystopia](#)", and Sam Hodman, freshman, won a national Silver Medal for his journalism category piece entitled "A Defrosting" about two teenagers on opposing sides of the Cold War in the 1980's. Renowned alumni who received Scholastic Art and Writing awards when they were teens include Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Philip Pearlstein, Sylvia Plath, Stephen King, Richard Linklater, Zac Posen, and Lena Dunham. Callie will be honored at a National Ceremony June 2 at Carnegie Hall with this year's special honoree, Ken Burns, award-winning filmmaker and documentarian. Of the record-breaking 320,000 students who submitted entries to Scholastic this year, the top 1% go on to win national medal awards. [Read More](#), and [click here](#) for a list of our ten students who received awards.

## Does MUFSD Test for Lead in Drinking Water?

This winter's crisis in Flint, Michigan has cast heightened attention on the issue of lead in drinking water, with particular concern for lead contamination in school drinking water. Since the early 1990's, the Mamaroneck School District has tested two water fountains per building (plus two extra at the high school) every six months, obtaining 28 samples per year. MUFSD has had no issues with lead in our school facilities' drinking water since the District began testing more than 20 years ago. Additionally, as you are probably aware, thanks to a grant from the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation, our students and staff in all of our buildings are enjoying water coolers and bottle filling stations newly installed this school year.



## Mamk Board of Ed Trustee Authors Article with Advice for Parents/Students on Choosing a College

Mamaroneck Board of Education Trustee Roger Martin, who writes extensively about students transitioning from high school to college, had a [piece published this month in Grown & Flown](#), where he shared advice for parents of teens deciding on which college to attend.



## MHS Students Travel to China to Immerse Themselves in Culture & Language

From Beijing (Tiananmen Square and The Forbidden City) and then on to Xi'An, our students travelling to China over their spring break did everything from attending a tea ceremony -- tasting teas and observing tea serving rituals -- to experiencing the flavorful authentic cuisine, and visiting the Bell Tower, Summer Palace (where the royal family of the Qing Dynasty used to spend their summers) and neighborhoods that are still inhabited by some of the descendants of the Qing dynasty, to the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. In Xi'An, they also had the chance to participate in a terra cotta workshop to make their own terra cotta warriors before visiting the pits where the real terra cotta warriors are. All the while - Lots of meaningful conversations and time spent with the locals. [Click here](#) for photo album posted on the District Facebook page; Photos by Chinese teacher Yuan Zhao.

**Have you seen this Hamilton video?** In case you missed it, check out this [short documentary on the MHS class trip to see Hamilton](#) on Broadway, an amazing experience for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders (about 375 of them) made possible by private donors and the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation. Video produced by MHS's very own video teacher, Emily Dombroff.

**April PTA Budget Meetings at Schools** The 2016-2017 Mamaroneck School District educational plan/budget has been discussed by the Board of Education and community members at Board meetings throughout March. The Board will wrap up its budget discussion at its meeting on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. During the rest of the month, the PTAs at each of the schools will hold meetings to discuss and vote on the Proposed Budget, which will be brought forth to the community for a vote on May 17<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) for the Budget section of the District website, including a listing of all upcoming budget meetings.

## Student Aid Fund Helps Mamaroneck High School Students Achieve College Dreams

Since its inception in 1937, the Mamaroneck-Larchmont Student Aid Fund – a completely separate organization from Mamaroneck High School – has been helping to make college affordable for members of MHS's graduating classes. Currently, the Fund is about \$500,000 short of the amount raised for last year's seniors. The number and dollar amount of scholarships provided will be based solely on how much money the Fund has raised by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. For more info on the Mamaroneck-Larchmont Student Aid Fund, visit: [www.MLSAF.org](http://www.MLSAF.org), where you will find video profiles of past scholarship recipients talking about their stories and what SAF scholarships have meant to them. [Read More](#), and watch videos: "[Faces of the Student Aid Fund](#)", "[Voices of the Student Aid Fund](#)"