



Port News

PORT JERVIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Space Academy graduate bringing lessons back to classroom

Teacher takes one giant step for his students

Port Jervis Middle School science teacher Padraic McCarthy just had the experience of a lifetime.

McCarthy was one of 240 educators from around the world selected to receive a scholarship to participate in 45 hours of real-life astronaut training at the 2011 Honeywell Educators Space Academy at the U. S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

From June 16-20, he was totally emerged in high performance jet simulations, water survival training and two mock space shuttle missions that included repairing the Hubble Space Telescope. McCarthy also spent hours working in the lab, building rockets and learning what it's like to be an astronaut.

Along the way, he interacted with astronauts and participated in innovative educational activities that are linked to science and math teaching standards.

The award-winning aerospace program is designed to help science and math teachers move beyond the standard curriculum in order to improve student learning and to motivate students to pursue careers in the fields



Eighth grade science teacher Padraic McCarthy poses in front of the Pathfinder Shuttle model at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL.

"The academic lessons have opened many doors for myself and my students," Padraic McCarthy

of science, technology, engineering or math.

McCarthy is excited about sharing what he learned with his students. "The academic lessons have opened many doors for myself and my students," said McCarthy. "This one incredible experience, and the connections I made, will have a ripple effect on my students for years to come."

McCarthy, who was selected from 1,200 applicants for the scholarship, hopes to use this experience

to encourage his students to take advantage of every possible opportunity. Admitting that he never thought he would make the cut, McCarthy said he nevertheless tried.

"I would tell students to build a habit of taking advantage of the opportunities that arise and avoid passively watching from the sidelines," he said.

"It takes strength and courage to recognize opportunities, but it's well worth the try."

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Learning how to fly a Cessna plane was one of the added bonuses offered to Space Academy participants by the Civil Air Patrol.

Port

A night at the... HBE Wax Museum

The Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School second grade classes recently transformed their school into literary wax museum.

When family and friends visited the museum, they found each of the students dressed as their favorite book character. Every time a museum visitor pressed a special exhibit button, the student "wax figures" came alive, sharing information they had researched and written about their character. Wax figures included Pinkalicious and the character from *My Mom is a Firefighter*.



Michael Mahaney, a student in Lori Kuroski's class, dressed as Jack from the Magic Tree House books for this year's Second Grade Wax Museum.

Capital Renovation Projects

Work has begun on the final phase of the Capital Improvement & Renovation Project approved by voters in February 2010. Listed below are some of the referendum projects and other work that will be completed this summer.

- Secure entrances:**
A new security vestibule is being added to the front entrance of ASK, HBE and Port Jervis High School to improve school safety.
- Heating ventilators:**
The classroom heating/ventilation units in the original section of the Route 209 complex are being replaced.
- Science laboratories:**
The 50-year-old science classrooms at Port Jervis High School are being renovated to meet today's state educational standards.
- New office space:**
Finishing touches are being made on the new modular unit at the Route 209 complex. Purchased with an allocation from the district fund balance, the unit will provide needed space for the Special Education and Registration/Attendance offices.
- Bathrooms:**
Needed renovations are being made to bathrooms at HBE, ASK and PJHS.

Baby chick project hatches learning opportunities at ASK

Dawn Buzzelli and Kristin Wadeson took an innovative approach to teaching their kindergarten students about the life cycle of baby chicks.

Instead of just presenting the information to the class, the teachers engaged their students in a hands-on science project that actively involved them in the incubation and hatching of six chicks.

The egg hatching project provided the Anna S. Kuhl Elementary School students with the opportunity to track the chicks' incubation period and observe their embryo development through a process called candling where the embryo can be seen by shining a light through the shell. After 21 days of anticipation, the first chick hatched on May 19. The class then got to spend the next two weeks watching the chicks, which were all affectionately named by the students, grow and develop their tail feathers.



Dawn Buzzelli's kindergarten students are all smiles as she hands them the baby chicks. For most students, holding the chicks is the best part of the project.

News

■ Congratulations to the Class of 2011

The skies cleared less than an hour before graduation, allowing the Class of 2011 to have its traditional outdoor graduation ceremony at Chase Field. Families, friends, and well-wishers filled the stadium to celebrate the students' accomplishments. The top 10 graduates were among those honored for their academic achievement. The complete list of graduates is posted on the district web site, www.pjschools.org. *Congratulations and best wishes to all!*



Melissa Bright - Valedictorian

A National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student, Melissa maintained a grade point average of 99.77 while participating in the National Honor Society, French Club, Rotary Interact, Friends of Rachel, Scholastic Bowl, DECA, and the varsity golf and track and field teams. Next year, she will attend Fordham University. She is the daughter of Michael and Cindy Bright.



Samantha Jo Muller

The Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Raider Softball team captain set an all-time strikeout record pitching this year for the Raider team, which won the 2011 Section 9 Championship. Samantha Jo also played varsity volleyball and basketball. The daughter of Kenneth and Bobbie Jo Muller will major in mathematics at Alfred University.



Kristen Blancato - Salutatorian

A member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society, Kristen earned a GPA of 98.87. Outside of school, she served as an intern for Congressman John Hall, and as treasurer of the Orange County Young Democrats. This fall, she will major in Physics and Philosophy at Wellesley College. She is the daughter of Teresa Blancato-Horton and John Blancato.



Shayna Reichert

The 2011 Kuykendall Community Service Award winner served as a student representative to the School Board, yearbook editor, co-captain of the Scholastic Bowl Team, founding member of Friends of Rachel, and participated in basketball, National Honor Society, Rotary Interact, and Youth in Government. Shayna will major in business at Messiah College. She is the daughter of Scott and Nancy Reichert.



Jonathan Volpe

As captain of the Scholastic Bowl team, Jon helped the team win its first regional competition and qualify for the National Scholastic Bowl. He also served as treasurer of the National Honor Society. Jon will major in chemical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which awarded him the distinguished RPI Medal. He is the son of Anthony and Tammy Volpe.



Margaret Hill

The National Honor Society member served as vice president of the championship Scholastic Bowl team and treasurer of the French Club. She also participated in Rotary Interact, the Yearbook Club, Mock Trial and the Prom Committee. An avid horse rider, Margaret will major in Equine Science at Centenary College. She is the daughter of Bob and Lannette Krikorian.



Kaitlyn Ludwigen

A scholar-athlete, Kaitlyn served as basketball team captain and participated in golf, soccer, and outdoor track & field. She was also involved in many school activities, including National Honor Society, Rotary Interact, Peer Leaders, Friends of Rachel and Pep Band. An aspiring orthopedic surgeon, Kaitlyn will major in biomedical sciences at SUNY Cortland. She is the daughter of Robert and Lorraine Ludwigen.



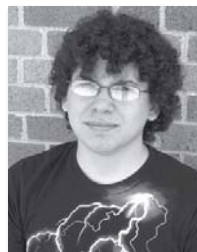
Christina Holmes

A talented French horn player, Christina qualified for the All-State and All-County Bands and the prestigious NY State School Music Association. The National Honor Society member also played varsity tennis and participated in Rotary Interact, the French Club and the Prom Committee. Christina will major in engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology. She is the daughter of Julie and William Holmes.



Devon Simpson

The Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete of the Year excelled in varsity wrestling (team captain) and football. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, Peer Leaders, Pep Band, and served as PJHS musical treasurer. Devon is attending Cornell University to pursue a career as a veterinarian. He is the son of Michael and Valerie Simpson.



Brandon Rodriguez

The High Honor Roll student is pursuing a career in the growing video game industry. Brandon is attending Marist College, one of the select group of premier colleges that offers a degree in video game design. He is the son of Amilear and Jennifer Rodriguez.

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SUMMER 2011

Are you ready for some Thanksgiving football?

Raiders will take on Middletown Thanksgiving Day in Bell game

The Red Raiders are bringing back a tradition that's been in hiatus for over 40 years: The Erie Bell Thanksgiving Day football game. Port Jervis will take on the Middletown Bears at Glennette Field Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, at 11 a.m.

The long-standing tradition and proud history of Thanksgiving Day football dates back to 1919 when the rival teams played the first of 51 consecutive holiday games. The game was temporarily halted in 1970 when Port Jervis joined the new Orange County League.

The rivalry was rekindled in 1971, and heightened in 1953 when the tradition of presenting the Erie Railroad Bell to the winning team was established.

The grid iron tradition is being brought back for the new generation of fans by Raider's new head coach Matt Polanis and athletic director Jared Kahmar who worked out the details with Middletown's football staff.

"When the idea of bringing back the Erie Bell Game to Thanksgiving Day was presented to me, I immediately thought of the stories I heard about the lost tradition. Having my father, who played and coached in the game, and my older siblings telling me stories of how it 'used to be' made me realize what this game meant to not only our family, but our community as well," said Polanis.

"The importance of this game goes beyond the two teams playing that day. It is going to bring back great



The Port Jervis - Middletown High School football rivalry is one of the oldest in the country. The Raiders have won 12 of the last 14 Erie Bell games.

memories for all who were involved in the game and create some new ones for years to come," he noted.

In terms of games played, Middletown vs. Port Jervis is one of the longest high school rivalries in the country. Despite losing last season, Port Jervis has won 12 of the last 14 Erie Bell games.

This renewed tradition will be a great event for all of our players, coaches, our school, and our community! Raider alumni are invited to rekindle fond memories of Turkey Day Football by joining us at the game. **Go Raiders!**