



In Levittown, Northside Elementary School collected more than 800 toys and games as part of a drive to benefit children in local hospitals through the John Theissen Children's Foundation.

others who are in need. It just warms the heart."

In East Setauket, Nassakeag Elementary School collected some 40 boxes of toiletries in a "Boxes for the Soldiers" drive. The boxes, decorated by sixth-graders, included homemade holiday cards for a platoon in Afghanistan where a staff member's nephew is stationed. The family of sixth-grader Tristan Rowland donated 20 cases of energy bars.

In Uniondale, Kellenberg Memorial High School collected more than 3,000 toys for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program and a selection of winter clothing to benefit the Society of Vincent de Paul.

In Shirley, John S. Hobart Elementary School fifth-grader Tyler Allan used \$215 of his savings to buy toys for Nana's House, a nonprofit in Mastic.

LEVITTOWN

Bailey Gribben Day

Students at Division Avenue High School collaborated last month on the inaugural Bailey

Gribben Day to support their classmate who is battling neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder of the nervous system.

Proceeds from various fundraisers and from the school's football game against Lynbrook High School benefited the Children's Tumor Foundation.

Gribben, a junior, has raised \$25,000 over the past few years for the foundation, for which he is a national ambassador. He was presented with an honorary game jersey at halftime.

LONG BEACH

Parent Academy

The Long Beach school district recently educated elementary pupils' parents on everything from student assessments to the importance of reading during the district's first Elementary Parent Academy, held at Lindell Elementary School.

Fifteen workshops were held to give parents "the clearest picture" of how to reinforce their child's learning, officials said.

CAVE DRAWINGS.

In Massapequa, Unqua Elementary School sixth-graders from Amy Kanavy-Curry's classes analyzed art from various Paleolithic caves and then put their knowledge into action by drawing their own sketches.



WAY TO GO! Rachael Martines

She's spreading the word about local fundraising

A Carle Place High School senior recently spread the word at the state level about her school's efforts to give back to the community.

Rachael Martines, 17, who is president of the senior class, hosted 10 workshops last month at the New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities' 2013 State Conference in Buffalo.

About 100 students at the conference heard Martines talk about her school's "Battle of the Classes, Battling for a Cause," a fundraiser that has collected \$75,000 for local organizations since 2008.

This year's event, scheduled Feb. 28, will benefit The Lexiebean Foundation, a nonprofit that supports children with cancer.

"The idea is to make a local impact," said Mar-

times, who also is president of the school's Key Club. Of the conference, she said: "It was interesting to hear what kids do at other schools, and it made me realize what we do at Carle

Place is unique and special."

The "Battle of the Classes" has physical and mental games involving all four

grade levels. Teens must raise funds to participate through sponsorships from family and friends.

Key Club and senior class adviser Maddelena Buffalino was named Adviser of the Year at the state conference. — MICHAEL R. EBERT



NOMINATE a student for Way to Go! Send details and a photograph (photos cannot be returned and may be used in other publications affiliated with Newsday) to Michael Ebert, Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747 or email michael.ebert@newsday.com. Photos sent by email should be high-resolution images.

In other news, Lindell recently raised \$2,200 via a "Walk It Forward" event, with participants walking the length of Lindell Boulevard and the Long Beach boardwalk. The money went to a school fund that helps local families in need.

MERRICK

Senior connection

Sanford H. Calhoun High School treated local senior citizens to a first-time musical performance last month as part of a new "senior connection" program in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District.

The acts included everything from commedia dell'arte-style skits to a scene from William Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale."

In other news, the district's Wellington C. Mepham High School recently collected \$3,815 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation with a "Battle of the Classes," with the four grade levels competing in physical activities such as volleyball and relay races.

ISLANDWIDE

NYSSMA All-State

The New York State School Music Association's All-State Conference this month included 347 students from Long Island — more than one-third of those chosen statewide to participate in ensembles at the event.

The conference, held Dec. 5-8 at the University of Rochester, featured performances by wind, string, women's chorus, symphonic band, mixed chorus, instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles. Thousands of students auditioned at NYSSMA festivals across the state last spring in the hope of winning a spot at All-State.

"Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff and parents, coupled with the strength and quality of the music program in Massapequa, our students are being recognized at higher levels than ever before," said David Gaines, curriculum associate for music in the Massapequa school district. Ten students from the district were chosen for All-State. — MICHAEL R. EBERT