

# Dr. Dana Friedman Receives Education Partner Award

Award-winning children's advocate, researcher and author Dr. Dana Friedman was honored before more than 200 of Long Island's most ardent public education supporters recently, as one of 11 honorees to receive the Nassau BOCES Education Partner award. The distinction is bestowed annually on those whose impact on public education in Nassau County can be measured in tangible ways.

A strategic education partner with school districts since 1967, Nassau BOCES created the awards program to honor those who share its mission of ensuring a successful, challenging, caring and safe environment that enables students of all ages and abilities to achieve their maximum potential. These outstanding individuals have made strides to accomplishing key educational goals embraced by Nassau BOCES, such as ensuring student success.

The awards were presented during a gala held by the Nassau BOCES Educational Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization that raises funds for innovative educational programs that fall outside of the agency's budget.

"Social justice and equity in education are two of the main reasons Dr. Dana Friedman got involved in public education," said Ronald Ellerbe, member of the Nassau BOCES Board. "She is an advocate for young learners everywhere, tirelessly looking for educational opportunities for children."

Dr. Friedman began her career as a lobbyist for the Day Care Council of America and the Coalition for Children and Youth. From there, she went on to become a senior research associate at The Conference Board, where she creat-



**Dr. Dana Friedman (center) is presented with the Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award by Nassau BOCES board members Ronald Ellerbe and Martin Kaye.**

ed the Work and Family Information Center in 1983. She founded the Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids (LINCK), co-founded the Families and Work Institute, and served as senior vice president of Bright Horizons Family Solutions. Most recently, she founded The Early Years Institute, where she currently serves as president.

Influential Working Mothers." Dr. Friedman serves with a number of influential institutions including the New York Early Care and Learning Council, Women's Fund of Long Island, the Conference Board's Work/Life Leadership Council, the Port Washington Child Partnership, and the New York State Childhood Advisory Council.

Dr. Friedman holds a bachelor's degree in child development from Cornell University, a master's degree in social psychology from the University of Maryland, a doctorate in organizational behavior from Harvard University. She currently lives in Port Washington, with her husband and three daughters.

"Tonight we are honoring 11 people who have proven that they are important," said Dr. Robert Hanna, deputy superintendent for Nassau BOCES. "Individually and collectively, they have a powerful impact on public education in this county, and we have all benefited from their efforts."

Celebrating its 45th year, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (Nassau BOCES) is a public agency that serves the 56 school districts of Nassau County. It provides cost-effective shared services, including continuing training for high school students and adults, special education, alternative schools, technology education and training, as well as dozens of programs that expand educational opportunities and districts operate more efficiently. [www.nassauboces.org](http://www.nassauboces.org) for news, information and educational updates and like Nassau BOCES on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/nassauboces](http://www.facebook.com/nassauboces).



## 443,718 pounds of food in the mail

It has been a busy season for Island Harvest, the Mineola-based hunger relief organization. As the local beneficiary of the National Association of Letter Carriers' 20th annual "Stamp Out Hunger" one-day food drive, Island Harvest received 443,718 pounds of food — or enough to supplement 369,751 meals. After food was collected from Long Island residents' mailboxes by their letter carriers May 12, more than 550 volunteers helped Island Harvest weigh, sort and package the food to be transported to its network of pantries.

On June 19, Island Harvest will host a grand opening celebration, complete with facility tours, at its new food distribution center at 40 Marcus Blvd. in Hauppauge.



## Early intervention

The Early Years Institute received a \$50,000 grant from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation to develop a school leadership project in Long Island. Specifically, the Plainview-based nonprofit will collaborate with the Alliance for Childhood and Nassau BOCES to help school districts comply with new early-childhood standards and assessments to align community-based early-childhood programs with elementary school curricula, with the goal of improving outcomes for children.

As part of the program, EYI will spearhead meetings for pre-K administrators as well as principals and teachers. In addition, six school districts will be selected from a request-for-proposal process to receive on-site coaching to classroom teachers from child development experts trained by the Alliance for Childhood, a national organization.

## Good food's in store for summer



## The air show soared in sunny skies

Nearly 15 percent of Long Islanders attended the Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach on Memorial Day weekend. This year's show attracted close to 400,000 spectators over two warm, sunny days, making it the largest public event in the state. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels and Royal Canadian Snowbirds were among the high-caliber lineup of performers.

The annual event, now in its ninth year, provides its sponsor, Bethpage Federal Credit Union, with "an exceptional opportunity to connect with our community in an impactful way," said Kirk Kordeleski, president and CEO of the Bethpage-based non-

profit organization, in a statement.

This year, Bethpage featured two Facebook contests for air show fans, who were asked to share photos capturing memories of their first flight and stories about what Memorial Day means to them. Ten winners were invited to meet air show performers at a planeside reception and tour vintage WWII aircraft. Bethpage also arranged for Ed Hamill, an air show pilot and motivational speaker, to make a presentation to encourage underserved students from the Westbury and Uniondale school districts to follow their dreams.

hunger-relief organization provide breakfast and lunch to children with limited access to nutritious food while school is closed. In addition to the grant, the Long Island East district's employees raised \$800 and more than 50 pounds of food for Long Island Cares through its 2012 "Bag Hunger" campaign.

"Our thanks go out to [the district] for their consistent support and partnership and especially to the local Macy's in Commack, which does so much for our organization throughout the year. We continue to be inspired by their generosity and good will," Millie Montes, child nutrition program specialist for Long Island Cares, said in a statement.

## If you wish to opine

It's survey time again. Cerini & Associates, the Bohemia account-

local nonprofit sector. Last year's survey yielded 171 responses. This year's version has been updated to include questions pertaining to the financial health of the sector.

To complete the survey, visit [survey.ceriniandassociates.com](http://survey.ceriniandassociates.com). Responses are due Friday, Sept. 14, and results will be presented at the Association of Fundraising Professionals-Long Island's annual Philanthropy Day event in November.

## Summer movies

The Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University will host the 17th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival July 19-28. This year's festival will feature a mix of independent features, shorts and documentaries, which were chosen from more than 800 entries from American and foreign filmmakers. The films will be

that there are few festivals like Stony Brook. The large audiences, intelligent feedback and enthusiasm for their films are unparalleled," Alan Inkles, director of the festival, said in a statement.

## Advancing those who advance youth

Boys & Girls Clubs of America teamed up with the University of Phoenix to offer full scholarships to 20 staff members, parents and alumni seeking to complete undergraduate or master's degrees. One of the winners chosen from more than 200 applicants was John DeCristoforo, senior director of development at Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club in Locust Valley, who will study for a Master of Business Administration.

"Serving youth is the No. 1 priority here at BGCA, and it's

reward these hard work a movement," for vice president and youth services, said

## Major success for two NA

Two projects of the Queens/Nassau Alliance for the Arts expansion received a \$100,000 grant-based U.S. Congressional

The large Lake Success program and its Creative program negative in individuals with law-enforcement program has Hempstead best to respond mentally illing will now additional 18

Additional its Breakin ness education County school support school signed to be mental health UUCSR, st mental illness available a substitute Janet Susi sau president

## High t

The Six White Ball the Cancer Winthrop- which welcomed guests and The event Yacht Club support of and creating programs that away-from young patients

Sophia newscaster supporter which honor of First National, and time support Stewart's Courtney' He said of a place that most dedi



fish and striped bass season April-December), ocean surf casting, fishing on 40-acre freshwater pond (license), 2 volleyball courts, 3 sand chairs, playground, 2 picnic area, general store (hours vary). **June 28-Aug. 30:** Sand castle contests, 9:30 a.m. Thur. **Fee:** \$10 a car daily May 26-Sept. 9.

**17. MONTAUK DOWNS STATE PARK**, 50 S. Fairview Ave. north of Route 27, Montauk, 631-668-5000; restaurant, 631-668-2089. This 160-acre park on the South Fork is built around a golf course.

**Season:** All year, sunrise to sunset. Golf season all year, weather permitting; tennis mid-May to mid September, pool from late June to early September. **Facilities:** Outdoor pool (ramp; season pass available), kiddie pool, tennis courts (6 Har-Tru courts open mid-May through mid-September, fee), pro shop, grill room, 18-hole golf course, driving range. **Aug. 24-25:** Montauk Gala. **Sept. 25:** Montauk Fall Classic Golf Tournament. **Fee:** No entrance fee.

**18. MONTAUK POINT STATE PARK**, 2000 Montauk Hwy., Route 27 east to end, Montauk, 631-668-5000. On 724 acres at the eastern end of the Island, Montauk Point offers breezes and vistas in the shadow of Montauk's lighthouse.

**Season:** All year, sunrise-sunset. **Facilities:** Surf casting (no license), hiking trails (5 miles), picnic area, refreshment stand, gift shop (all year, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.). **Sept. 21-23:** Montauk Surf Classic. **Fee:** \$8 per car, daily May 26-Oct. 8, weekends and holidays March 31-May 20 and Oct. 13-Nov. 11.

**19. NISSEQUOGUE RIVER STATE PARK**, 799 Saint Johnland Rd., Kings Park, 631-269-4927. This 159-acre park is situated at the mouth of the Nissequogue River and offers vistas from the bluffs overlooking the Long Island Sound.

**Season:** All year, sunrise to sunset. **Facilities:** Fishing, hiking, birding (checklist of birds that may be seen is available), canoe/kayak launch (rentals available, call 631-979-8244), boat launch at marina, environmental programs



# OH, BROTHERS!

Two pairs of siblings — Justin Schmidt, 12, left, Kyle Walsh, 15, Eric Schmidt, 15, and Jake Walsh, 13 — are doing fine, relatively speaking, as they canoe down the Nissequogue River in Smithtown.

Photo by Kyle and Jake's mom, **Diane Walsh** of Levittown

(registration and fee required, call park for details). **Fee:** \$8 per car daily May 26-Labor Day; weekends after Labor Day, call for fee dates.

**20. ORIENT BEACH STATE PARK**, 40000 Main Rd. (Route 25), Orient, 631-323-2440. The 364-acre park offers 8 miles of shoreline, including wilderness areas ideal for shell collecting, plant study and bird-watching. **Season:** All year, daily 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through March 30, then to 6:30 p.m. March 31-May 25 and 8 p.m. May 26-Labor Day. **Facilities:** 300-foot beach on Gardiners Bay, playground, picnic areas, barbecue grills, 2 sand wheelchairs, pavilion (party rentals available), gazebo, hiking, Roy Latham Maritime Forest Trail, Long Beach Trail with self-guided brochures, bike rentals and path, bath-

house, showers, comfort station, food concession, surf fishing, windsurfing, bocce, horseshoe area, volleyball, shuffleboard, gift shop and rentals available for kayaking and standup paddle boards. **Fees:** \$10 a car daily June 23-Labor Day; \$8 per car weekends and holidays May 26-June 22 and Sept. 8-Oct. 8.

**21. ROBERT MOSES STATE PARK**, Sagtikos Parkway south to Robert Moses Causeway to western Fire Island, 631-669-0470. **Season:** All year. **Facilities:** Park's 875 acres center on its 5-mile beach, with bathhouses, and a nearby boat basin (with pump-out stations). Field 5 open all year, beach shop, umbrella rentals, bathhouses, fishing (night fishing to Dec. 31, by permit), sand wheelchairs (all fields), specially equipped playground (Field 5), protected body-boarding areas, surfing areas (all fields; unprotected), first-aid stations, 18-hole pitch-putt golf, snack bars, picnic areas. **July 11:** Pitch Putt Golf Outing. **Fee:** \$10 a car daily May 26-Sept. 9; \$8 a car weekends and holidays March 31-May 20 and Sept. 15-Nov. 18.

**22. SHADMOOR STATE PARK**, 900 Montauk Hwy. Montauk, 631-668-5000. **Season:** All year, daily. **Facilities:** This 99-acre park (owned by New York State, Suffolk County and East Hampton Town, which manages it with the Nature Conservancy) opened in 2001; ocean beach, freshwater wetlands, hiking and biking trails, in addition to 2 bunkers (designed to look like cottages from the water) built for surveillance during World War II. **Fee:** Free.

**23. WILDWOOD STATE PARK**, Hulse Landing Road, north of Sound Avenue, Wading River, 631-929-4314, 800-456-CAMP (for camp reservations). This 769-acre park sits above a rugged stretch of shoreline on Long Island Sound and the only state park on Long Island with full hookups for trailer campers; campsites open first Fri. in April-Columbus Day. No pets allowed. **Season:** All year, daily, sunrise-sunset. **Facilities:** Beach, 2 sand wheelchairs, showers, campsites (800-456-CAMP to reserve), picnic area, a softball field, 2 basketball courts, volleyball court, a playground, hiking trails (about 11 miles), saltwater fishing, snack bars, horseshoe pits, on-duty lifeguard, cross-country skiing and sledding in winter. **Sept. 29:** Wildwood Fall Festival. **Fee:** \$10 a car daily June 23-Labor Day; \$8 a car daily May 26-June 22.

## School's out(side)

On Long Island, playing outside can also mean learning outside, thanks to the Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids.

LINCK, a project of the nonprofit Early Years Institute, sponsors "outdoor classrooms" in Nassau and Suffolk counties that offer parents a chance to use nature to stimulate learning in children ages 2 and older. Public classrooms are in Bailey Arboretum in Lattingtown; the Long Island Children's Museum in Garden City; Sands Point Preserve; the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach; and Suffolk County Farm and Education Center in Yaphank.

Developed by regional landscape architects, these all-natural learning areas encourage the use of all five senses to help children develop creativity and a love of the outdoors.

"Parks and open spaces provide the richest learning experiences for students," LINCK President Dana Friedman said. "Children won't save what they don't love."

Each of the five parks offers a unique experience. The Phil Dejana Learning Center and Outdoor Classroom in Sands Point, for example, features trails, pond, beach and native animal habitats; the tree-lined walkways of Middle Country Public Library Nature Explorium lead

to a singing stage, where children can learn to appreciate music.

Whatever the design, the goal remains the same: to teach children the virtues of nature and the value of learning.

"The parents who come are amazed at all their kids can do," said Toni Riedel, director of communications for the Early Years Institute. "Parents watch their kids explore, be creative and use their senses to play."

Since classrooms are outdoors, availability depends on weather conditions. Parents should call or check online for programs and conditions.

■ **Bailey Arboretum**, 194 Bayville Road, Lattingtown, 516-571-8020, baileyarboretum.org

■ **Long Island Children's Museum**, 11 Davis Avenue, Garden City, 516-224-5800, licm.org

■ **Phil Dejana Learning Center & Outdoor Classroom at The Sands Point Preserve**, 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, 516-571-7901, thesandspointpreserve.com

■ **Suffolk County Farm and Education Center**, 350 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, 631-852-4603, ccesuffolk.org/nature-explore-classroom

■ **Middle Country Public Library Nature Explore Classroom**, 101 Eastwood Boulevard, Centereach, 631-852-4603, natureexplorium.org

[THE SCOOP]



JAMES BERNSTEIN

# New fund for start-ups

## TECHNOLOGY

There is \$1.25 million of fresh money available on Long Island to create between 10 and 15 technology start-up companies.

The money was quietly put together in the last few weeks by **Resi Cooper**, the business consultant who is temporarily heading Acceler-

ate Long Island, the Long Island Association project to turn research at the region's labs and universities into companies; two venture capitalists, **Mark Fasciano** of Canrock Ventures in Jericho and **David L. Calone** of Jove Partners in Babylon; and **Neil Cohen**, a private investor. They are calling the effort the Long Island Emerging Technology Fund.

Of the \$1.25 million, \$500,000 came in a grant from the state's Economic Development Corp., and \$250,000 each came from the funds run by Fasciano, Calone and Cohen.

Cooper said she plans to organize a meeting in June to allow people with ideas for technology businesses to meet with investors.

Calone said, "We are

going to create companies" using the money. "The ideas will come out of research."

Accelerate Long Island is working with five labs and universities to identify research that could be commercialized. Other efforts are also under way. Cooper said the meeting is still in the planning stages. But, she said, "It's exciting. It's a beginning."

## Expanding his empire with links

### CATERING

Long Island catering impresario **Steve Carl**, owner of Carlyle on the Green at Bepage State Park and other venues, has expanded his empire, taking a 20-year lease on the Stonebridge Golf Links & Country Club in Hauppauge.

Carl signed the lease with the late of **Carl Lizza Jr.**, who died at 73 last year. Lizza had founded Roslyn-based construction firm Lizza Industries, which was involved in the re-creation of Stony Brook bridge. Carl said he has an option to buy the facility.

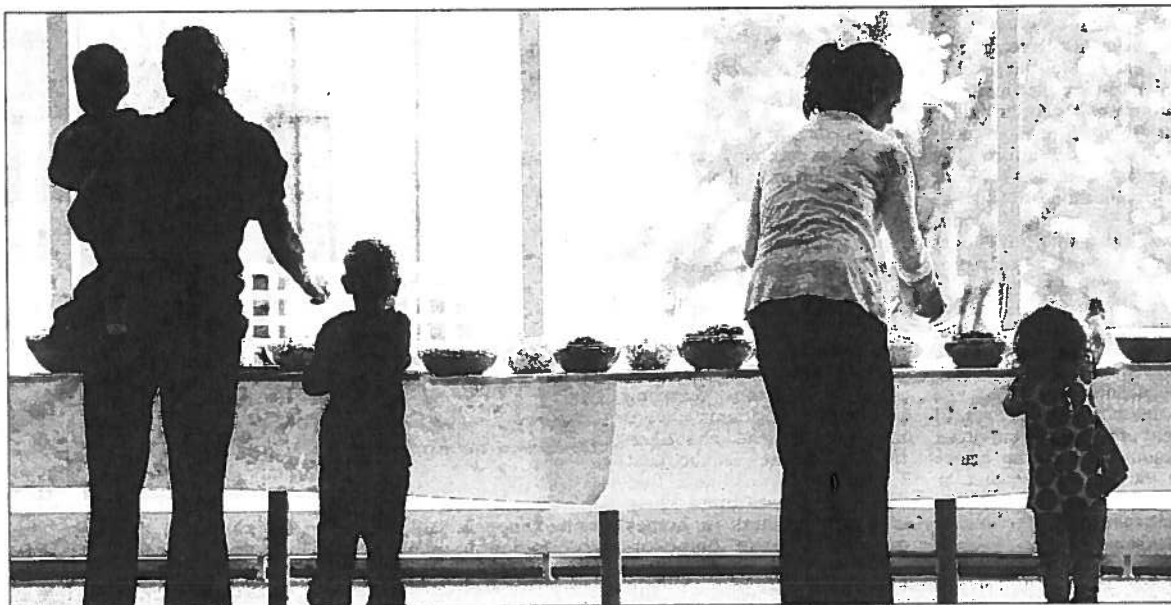
"We're doing a major expansion of the ballroom and the dining area," Carl said this week. They are also plans to add a spa. "This is an opportunity for us to create a new and exciting venue in Hauppauge," he said.

The club is a few miles from Stony Brook. Carl said he has named his newest venture **Carl Caterers** on Route 347 Terry Road. Carl said he expects the expansion to be completed sometime next year. **John Marin**, restaurant manager at Carlyle on the Green, will assume the management role at Stony Brook.

The club includes an 18-hole golf course, which Carl said will maintain.

The venue "hasn't been marketed or advertised much," he said, but he is planning to change that. The venue will host several events on Mother's Day, May 13. "We're going to bring in people who [in the past] have not wanted to come out to Suffolk . . . It gives the people who want a scale high-end party a reason to come there."

Carl had some other new share. On Monday, Carlyle on the Green will host **EL James**, author of the bestselling erotic novel "Fifty Shades of Grey," which focuses on a deepening relationship between a recent young college grad and a business magnate. James will be on hand for a signing between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The event is already a sell-out, Carl said. "I have a waiting list of 1,000 people."



NEWSDAY PHOTO / AUDREY C. TIERIAN

At CA Technologies in Islandia yesterday, parents and kids enjoy a special lunch together as part of national Screen-Free Week.

# Quality family time, unplugged

## SCREEN-FREE WEEK

Employees of Islandia-based software giant **CA Technologies Inc.** — a company whose livelihood makes use of screens — received an unusual request from management this week: Try getting off the screens when you're at home after work.

CA was the largest compa-

ny on Long Island to take part in the national Screen-Free Week, formerly TV-Turnoff, which runs until Sunday. Kids and parents are supposed to spend time together, outdoors, and "unplug" from televisions, computers and all other electronic devices, at least in the evening at home. At CA yesterday, parents of children at the Montessori Center on the company's grounds got together for

lunch. So the parents, all of whom work at CA, were unplugged, for an hour or so.

Unplugging is important to CA, said human resources vice president **Lisa Mars**. CA asked that kids and parents at Montessori Centers at other company locations in the United States and abroad also unplug. Those who unplug at home and spend time with family will be happier people, and thus

more productive employees, Mars said.

The event at CA was promoted for the second consecutive year by the Early Years Institute, a Plainville-based nonprofit that encourages educational programs for children. EYI spokeswoman **Toni Riedel** said the organization plans to do it again next year.

"It's getting bigger and better," Riedel said.



## 18th Annual Prom Boutique Program Benefiting LI High School Students

The Long Island Volunteer Center working in conjunction with Nassau Community College Marketing & Fashion students will be collecting new and gently-used prom dresses, bridesmaid dresses and accessories (including dressy shoes, evening bags and costume jewelry) for the 18th Annual Prom Boutique.

The following is a list of collection sites that will be accepting donations.

**During regular store hours until Sunday, April 22:**

- FreePeople, Roosevelt Field Mall
- A.T. Stewart Exchange Consignment Shop, The Garden City Historical Society Museum, 109 Eleventh Street, Garden City
- Sunday, April 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.:**
  - Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church (Community Room), 53 Prospect Road, Centerport

**Saturday, April 21 all day:**

- Clear Skin Salon, 537 Hempstead Tpk., West Hempstead
- Sunday, April 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:**
  - St. Anthony's High School, Villanova Alumni Association, 275 Wolf Hill Road, South Huntington

**Sunday, April 22 from 1 to 3 p.m.:**

- Grace Lutheran Church, 1294 Bellmore Ave., North Bellmore
- Junior League of Long Island Thrift Shop, 1395 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn
- Lucky Finds Boutique, 7 North Park Ave., Rockville Centre
- nuBest Salon, 1482 Northern Blvd., Manhasset
- Somerset Gardens Senior Living, 150 Sunnyside Blvd., Plainview
- YMCA, 60 Main Street, Huntington
- St. John's Episcopal Church, 1670 Route 25A, Cold Spring Harbor
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church (back door), 309 Patchogue Road, Port Jefferson Station

• Temple Beth Am, 2377 Merrick Ave., Merrick

• Westy Self Storage, 2400 Marcus Ave., Lake Success

• YES Community Counseling Center, 75 Grand Ave., Massapequa

Please check [www.longislandvolunteercenter.org](http://www.longislandvolunteercenter.org) for updated information on collection sites and dates.

All dresses and accessories will then be distributed free of charge to girls of families across Long Island who cannot easily absorb the expense of a new gown for their prom, awards ceremony, or graduation event. High school guidance counselors, at-risk youth agencies, group homes, and church outreaches make the program available to their constituents. Over 1,300 girls benefited in 2011 from 65 different schools and nonprofit youth organizations across Long Island.

## What Every Long Islander Should Know

### Screen-Free Week for Kids Is April 30 - May 6

By NANCY RAUCH DOUZINAS

What does a \$4.4 billion software company have in common with a not-for-profit dedicated to early childhood? They're both concerned about the time children are spending watching TV. And, they're doing something about it.

CA Technologies, the Islandia-based software giant, and the Early Years Institute in Plainville are joining thousands of businesses, schools, cultural and community organizations nationwide in sponsoring the second annual Screen-Free Week, running April 30 to May 6.

What's wrong with kids watching TV, playing video games, and surfing the Internet? Plenty.

First, kids spend way too much time glued to their screens. Children ages 2-6 average four hours a day; older kids more than seven. More screen time leads to decline in school performance, especially reading and comprehension skills. Today kids are six times more likely on a typical day to play a video game than to ride a bike.

Those displaced activities are critical in building kids' physical, mental, and social skills. Research shows that children who spend more time outdoors have longer attention spans than those who consume more TV and video games. And that sedentary viewing—along with all the junk food commercials—greatly increases kids' risk of obesity.

Most grave are the risks to young children, whose brain growth in the first years of life depends on the quality of their early experiences. Kids need lots of personal interaction. Passive entertainment doesn't cut it.

That is why the American Academy of Pediatrics says that children under the age of 2 should not be watching TV at all. Yet by three months, four out of ten infants are viewing regularly.

Electronics have become the path of least resistance, for kids and their parents. We need to recognize the toll it is taking and start reclaiming some of that screen time for other activities.

Shutting off the screens for a week is a great way to push ourselves into breaking out. Let kids rediscover the pleasure of riding a bike, playing catch, and jumping rope. For many kids, it won't be rediscovery at all. You'd be amazed how many kids today don't even know how to play hopscotch. Much less how to fly a kite.

For indoors at night, experts are big on drawing and coloring. (A recent study compared 4-year-olds who watched SpongeBob for nine minutes with kids who spent the time drawing with crayons. Following the activities, the kids were given a series of tests of executive function; the SpongeBob watchers did significantly worse.) Card games, board games, and party games provide the personal interaction that is just what the pediatrician ordered for social development.

When the week is up, families can keep from getting back in their rut by setting up new guidelines, such as limiting screen use to certain days or times, turning sets off during meals, and designating a family time devoted to play.

Changing settled habits isn't easy. But a screen-free week could be just the push we need to get kids making healthier use of their time.

Nancy Rauch Douzinas is president of the Rauch Foundation, a family foundation that supports innovative programs centered on children, the environment, and regional leadership. For more information visit [www.rauchfoundation.org](http://www.rauchfoundation.org). Rauch Foundation is a supporter of the Early Years Institute.

# PARENTING



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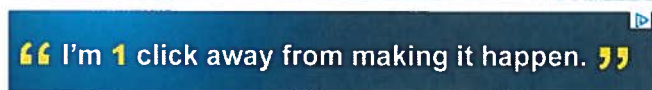
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## Montesano Urges Residents To Participate



April 11, 2012

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### *In 'screen-free' week*

(Long Island, NY) Assemblyman Michael Montesano (R, I, C – Glen Head) would like to encourage residents to take part in the Long Island-based Early Years Institute's Screen-Free Week from April 30 to May 6. The event's goal is for children and adults alike to reduce their use of screen media and, in the words of the Institute's motto, "Celebrate the Magic of Being Unplugged."

"While the advances in technology and screen media are remarkable, we should all take the time to engage in healthy outdoor recreation and habits," said Montesano. "Screen-Free Week is an excellent opportunity for our residents to turn off their TVs and computers and enjoy the wonderful springtime weather and activities available to Long Islanders."

A 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation study says children between the ages of eight and 18 spend nearly 11 hours a day multitasking with screen media and are more likely to struggle academically and socially. Studies also show that children who spend less time with screen media are healthier, get better grades, can concentrate easier and display increased imagination and curiosity.

"Screen media plays an important role in the development of our children, but fostering a healthy imagination, creativity and social skills are just as important," said Montesano. "Whether it's going outside and playing a sport or game with friends, or just taking the time to read a book, I strongly encourage parents and children to take full advantage of Screen-Free Week."

The Early Years Institute is currently seeking volunteers and participants to distribute flyers, posters and other information on Screen-Free Week. Certain participating organizations will be offering discounts or free admission to products and services and will be featured in an "alternative activities guide" distributed by local newspapers and publications. For more information on Screen-Free Week, please visit the Early Years Institute website at [www.eyi.org](http://www.eyi.org).

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### **Families Encouraged To Take Part In Screen free Week**

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***Early Years Institute's Annual Screen-Free Week is running from April 30 to May 6***

**[SPECIAL REPORT]**

(Long Island, NY) The Long Island-based Early Years Institute's Annual Screen-Free Week is running from April 30 to May 6, and Assemblyman Dean Murray (R,C-East Patchogue) is encouraging Long Islanders to take part. The goal of the event, now in its second year, is for children, parents, teachers and other influential adults in communities to reduce the use of screen media such as television, video games, computers and cell phones by using this time to play outside or use their minds creatively in order to spur independent learning.

"Screen-Free Week is an excellent opportunity for adults and children alike to turn off their cell phones, iPads and Xboxes for a little while and take part in outdoor activities," said Murray. "By encouraging reading and outdoor play, we can enhance both the mental and physical health and creativity of ourselves and our children."

According to a 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation study, children between the ages of eight and 18 spend nearly 11 hours a day multitasking with screen media and are more likely to struggle academically and socially. Studies also show that children who spend less time with screen media are healthier, get better grades, can concentrate easier and display increased imagination and curiosity.

"While the growth of technology has certainly provided families with great benefits, we still need to encourage and promote the joys of life beyond screens," said Murray. "I strongly encourage everyone to participate in Screen-Free Week. Together, we can make our communities more vibrant and healthier than ever before."

*The Early Years Institute is currently seeking volunteers and participants in Screen-Free Week to help distribute flyers, posters and other information on the event. Certain participating organizations will be offering discounts or free admission to products and services and will be featured in an "alternative activities guide" distributed by local newspapers and publications.*

South Bay Newspaper  
May 16, 2012

## Sharing The Fun



The mission of "Let's Be Screen Free" is to have families recall alternative activities to sitting in front of a television, computer, and digital game screens. The goal is to improve the quality of early childhood through family and interactive games, as demonstrated recently at a pajama wearing, evening occasion. In Bellport, the Brookhaven Technical Center at the Brookhaven Academic Center (BTC@BAC) event, held during National Screen-Free Week, included a celebration of Earth Day 2012, a collection of non-perishable food for local food pantries, and a community service project for SkillsUSA students. Organized by BTC Early Childhood Education teacher Jayne Kaht and sponsored by Eastern Suffolk BOCES in collaboration with The Early Years Institute, the alternative activities included board games, book reading, athletic type challenges, and a musical concert by guitarist Janice Buckner.

United Health Care provided healthy snack information, the American Heart Association offered healthy lifestyle facts, the American Dental Association addressed the importance of pediatric checkups, and more. Students in the Culinary Arts program made healthy snacks, Dental Assisting provided tooth hygiene information and free toothbrushes, Medical Assisting performed blood pressure screening, and from Woodworking came child-friendly projects. Bellport librarians brought books to read to the youngest guests. Assemblyman Dean Murray encouraged parents to remember the fun they had as children playing with their parents, sharing books, games, and exercise.



# STEM: Meeting The Needs Of America's Technical Workforce

CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ARE ACTIVE TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS IN THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) FIELDS.

## MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS AWARDS GRANT

According to Matt Blakely, director of Motorola Solutions Foundation, The Early Years Institute was chosen as a



Matt Blakely, Director, Motorola Solutions Foundation

grant recipient because of its expertise in early childhood and innovative application of STEM for preschoolers. Support from the Motorola Solutions Foundation's "Innovation Generation" program will empower The Early Years Institute

to build on current STEM initiatives, such as President Barack Obama's "Change the Equation," which boosts American students' engagement in STEM education.

According to a 2010 study by Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, the number of STEM jobs in the United States is predicted to increase by 17.8% by 2018; however, the number of qualified U.S. candidates is expected to remain unchanged from the 2007 levels. The Innovation Generation grant funding will enable The Early Years Institute to equip students from age three to grade three with



the problem-solving and critical-thinking skills they need to excel in school and be successful in life.

"The future of American innovation depends on a diverse pipeline of critical thinkers who are well-versed in STEM principles," states Blakely. "Opening kids' eyes to real-world applications of the concepts they learn in the classroom brings out their curiosity and spirit of discovery. What they see and learn gives them the confidence and skills they need to excel in science and math."

The Early Years Institute is a regional nonprofit based in Plainview, NY, and was formed in 2008 to promote the importance of the early years and help improve school readiness for all children on Long Island.

## NEW BAYER SURVEY

American women entering college are the best prepared academically hit the books and successfully graduate with a STEM degree (82% according to a survey of faculty from the nation's top 200 research universities who chair STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) departments. The survey conducted by Bayer Corporation, the 15th by the company and the fifth to examine the underrepresentation of women, African American Hispanics, and American Indians in many U.S. STEM fields.

The survey uncovers several possible reasons why these students, particularly females, come to college poised for success but fail to graduate with STEM degrees. Specifically, the chairs say being discouraged from a STEM career is still an issue today for both female and underrepresented minority (URM) STEM undergraduate students (59%) and that traditional rigorous introductory instructional approaches that weed out students early on from STEM studies are generally harmful and more so to URM (56%) and female (27%) students compared to majority students (i.e. Caucasian and Asian males). Yet, a majority (57%) of the chairs do not see a need to significantly change their introductory instructional methods in order to



[THE SCOOP]

JAMES BERNSTEIN



# Nonprofits await Motorola funds



Trish Manzi of The Early Years Institute will lead a program in which kids will study nature and use technology to do research.

PHOTO BY JEREMY BALES

## TECHNOLOGY

At the end of May, lots of eyes on Long Island will be focused on Schaumburg, Ill., the home of the giant Motorola company.

Since it acquired Holtville-based Symbol Technologies in 2006, Motorola has quietly become one of the Island's largest providers of funding to help train students to fill those critically important technology jobs that now drive the economy.

Motorola will be deciding in May how much money to give to nonprofits on Long Island to conduct so-called STEM (science, technology, math and engineering) programs. The programs are held at schools, libraries and museums around the Island.

**Matt Blakely**, director of Motorola Solutions Founda-

tion, the corporate charitable arm, said that last year the company provided \$1 million in funding to the Island for STEM.

Since 2007, Blakely said, Motorola has provided \$25.5 million in such funding across the country. He declined yesterday to say how much he thought the Island's nonprofits might receive in May.

"We only now just got the applications in," Blakely said. "But Long Island is one of our priorities" because Symbol is a major Motorola facility. "We try to be as responsible a funder as we can."

The hope of Motorola and others who invest in STEM programs is that students in the United States will take up careers in engineering or one of the sciences. Blakely cited a recent study by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

that showed 15-year-olds in the United States rank 21st in science and 25th in math around the world.

The Plainview-based nonprofit The Early Years Institute, which supports early childhood education, received \$110,000 from Motorola last year to conduct a STEM program in the Westbury school district this fall.

**Trish Manzi**, director of the institute's largest program, Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids, which will operate the program at Westbury, is an ornithologist.

The Westbury kids will be outdoors studying nature, and then indoors using technology to further their research, Manzi said.

The institute, she said, may apply again to Motorola for funds in 2013.

"We will certainly sit down and consider that," she said.





<http://www.newsday.com/columnists/james-bernstein/ca-early-years-suggest-screen-free-week-1.3571458>

## CA, Early Years suggest Screen-Free Week

March 1, 2012 by JAMES BERNSTEIN / [james.bernstein@newsday.com](mailto:james.bernstein@newsday.com)

This may not sit well with television executives and advertisers: CA Inc., the Islandia-based software giant, and Plainview-based nonprofit The Early Years Institute, are holding a second-annual Screen-Free Week. Except for work or homework, CA and EYI are asking parents and students to turn off their screens for the week of April 30 through May 6.

EYI president Dana E. Friedman, who helped bring the Screen-Free Week to Long Island after hearing about it at a convention in North Carolina, said instead of screens, parents and kids should play, sing, cook, fly a kite, read books or just enjoy family time together.

Last year, Friedman said, some people expressed the belief that a screen-free week was "too intimidating." But she told them, "This is only for one week. There are things you have to use technology for. We're talking about [turning off] the entertainment" screens.

How much screen time do kids log? EYI said that by the time today's children are 30 years old, they will have spent 10 years of their lives glued to one screen or another.

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