

NOTEBOOK

LI LIFE S2

Experiment heading off to space

Garden City Middle School seventh-graders have been selected for an out-of-this-world opportunity.

A science experiment proposed by Bridget Coviello, Isabelle DeNoto, Samantha Racich and Elsie Ross will be launched into space this year as part of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education's Student Spaceflight Experiments Program.

Their experiment, titled "How does microgravity affect the germination of a tomato seed," is one of 23 worldwide chosen to board a SpaceX vehicle and be transported 250 miles to the International Space Station.

"We are very proud of their hard work and devotion to science," said Garden City's science curriculum coordinator Elena Cascio. "It's a true project-based learning that inspires students to love science and dream big."

The team is now preparing its project to be performed in space by astronauts, school officials said. The selected experiments are expected to be launched in late spring.

"We all are looking forward to learning how the microgravity affects the germination of tomato seeds and compare the results with the ground experiment performed by all our seventh-grade students," said Christine Lebenns, a teacher facilitator and community program director for Garden City.

BOHEMIA

Business Academy

Connetquot High School has launched a Business Academy in which students can further focus on studying business principles. The academy's inaugural class consists of 35 teens who can follow the path to achieving a Career and Technical Education accreditation.

To graduate from the academy, students must earn 4.5 business credits — including required courses — and complete 54 hours of work-based learning. Seniors must be enrolled in the school's Virtual Enterprise course with a GPA of 90 or higher and with plans to pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute exam and receive CTE designation.

"The Business Academy allows the students who have found an interest in business to follow their path," said the district's director of social studies and business, Robert Cassagne. "Through the academy, we will teach real-life business skills through courses and partnerships with outside business organizations."

PORT JEFFERSON STATION

Branding competition winners

Comsewogue High School's Virtual Enterprise students recently earned a



Garden City Middle School's Samantha Racich, left, Bridget Coviello, Elsie Ross and Isabelle DeNoto will see their experiment launched to the International Space Station.

perfect score and won first place nationally in Virtual Enterprise International's National Company Branding Competition, which challenged teams to create a brand presence — including the development of a company logo, color palette and business cards.

The students were selected for their virtual firm, SubZero, which designs products to help athletes stay cool while playing sports. The competition received 156 entries nationwide.

"This win is a testament to our determination and growth as students who know how to function as effective employees," said Comsewogue senior and SubZero CEO, Emma Wiermann.

ISLANDWIDE

'Rapid React'

Dozens of teams across Long Island recently received a kit of parts as part

of their participation in this year's FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.

The kits — which included motors, batteries and control system components — were handed out last month by the School-Business Partnerships of Long Island at the property of Schenck USA Corp., in Deer Park. Teams are now working to design and build robots that weigh up to 120 pounds and will compete in a regional competition this spring at Hofstra University.

This year's competition has a theme of "Rapid React," which will challenge competing alliances to guide their robots to retrieve color-coded cargo and score it into a hub — as well as engage robots with a hangar in each match's final moments. It is being presented by The Boeing Co.

— MICHAEL R. EBERT



SAVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

KEEPING CANDY SAFE

As part of an assignment in Chad Cross' design and drawing for production classes, Sayville High School students worked in groups to design and construct boxes that would prevent a candy bar from being damaged during shipping.

WAY TO GO!

Sophia Segal

Junior gets seat on Key Club global committee

A Huntingdon High School student has amassed an assortment of leadership roles locally and internationally.

Sophia Segal, a junior, was recently selected as one of 11 students worldwide to serve on Key Club International's Global Relations Committee, which strives to promote diversity and inclusion in the international service organization for high schoolers.

She also oversees the club's chapters in six local high schools — Half Hollow Hills East and West, Harborfields, Huntington, Northport and Ward Melville — as the lieutenant governor of Division 3 of the New York District of Key Club and is a co-chair of the division's Club Engagement Committee. As lieutenant governor, she helps to plan such events as an upcoming leadership training conference.

"My favorite thing about it is just knowing that I'm giving back to the community while also doing something that I really enjoy," Segal, 16, said of Key Club. "I've also been able to build really great connections with other people."

Segal's other activities include serving as president of her school's Yearbook Club, vice president of the Spanish Honor Society, treasurer of the chamber choir, and social media coordinator for the Environmental Club.

She also serves as a Spanish tutor for her district's middle school students and is a member of her school's Habitat for Humanity Chapter and the National, English, Science and Tri-M Music honor societies.

— MICHAEL R. EBERT



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