

SAAWA

AWARD CEREMONY



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Monday June 5, 2023



Anila Midha
Founder & President



Subash Midha
Chairperson, Science Fair

SAAWA Executive Board



Aruna Saxena



Bharathi Nelanuthala



Sunita Saini



Bina Sabapathy



Rekha Chichara



Dr. Usha Tandon



Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker



Dr. Gaurav Passi

Superintendent of Schools
at Manhasset Public Schools

Dr. Gaurav Passi is the Superintendent of the Manhasset Public Schools. His continued focus is cultivating a warm, caring, supportive, and academically rigorous learning environment for each of Manhasset's students. He began his career in 2003 as a social studies teacher, and his subsequent administrative experience includes serving as an administrative dean and over 11 years as a high school building administrator. Before serving as Superintendent, Dr. Passi was appointed Manhasset's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in July 2019, with responsibilities added for Personnel in 2020, and was named the Acting Superintendent of Schools in 2021.

Dr. Passi earned his Bachelor of Arts in History, a Master of Arts in Social Studies Education, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from Hofstra University. He earned his Doctor of Education with a research focus on Professional Learning Communities and School Reform from Dowling College. His dissertation won the National Association of Secondary School Principals 2011 Dissertation of the Year Award. Dr. Passi was also recognized by the Council of Administrators and Supervisors with their Leadership Award when Bayport-Blue Point High School received the National Blue Ribbon School of Distinction Award from the US Department of Education under his leadership.



Thanks

We are grateful to our Supporters, Sponsors, and Judges of the Middle and High School Science Fairs, as well as Essay Competition. Without their help we could not have organized any of these events.

Advisors

Dr. Ellen McCulloh, Erin Garland, Jennifer Verwys, Paul Paino, Paraskevy Zaferiou, Sean Mahoney, Shannon Kelly, Dr. Steven Gordon, Tami Cruz

Supporters of SAAWA

Dr. Bret Bennington, Dr. Bhavana M. Kohli, Dr. David McCulloh, Deepa Pasricha, Dr. Hetal Tangal, Jitendra Chichara, Piyush Tangal, Pradeep Tandon, Saumya Chhabra, Shaker Nelanuthala, Shilpa Seth, Shreya Pasricha, Soni Midha, Dr. Sreenadh Jonnavithula, Dr. Unni Mooppan, Dr. Usha Tandon

Photos by Dolly Nanda and Akshat Kaul



SAAWA Distinguished Teachers' Awards 2023



Kathleen McAuley

Science Research Teacher
Lynbrook High School

Mrs. Kathleen McAuley began her career at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's DNA Learning Center in 2012 where she taught middle and high school students from across Long Island and New York City, as well as teaching in Suzhou, China when Cold Spring Harbor Asia opened. She went on to teach in public schools in 2017 and moved to teaching science research at Lynbrook Senior High School in September of 2020.

Since teaching science research, she has helped students in a variety of local and regional competitions. Her students have won awards at Long Island Science Congress, New York State Science Congress, NSPC Science Fair, Long Island Science and Engineering Fair, New York State Science and Engineering Fair, ExploraVision, Regeneron Science Talent Search, and most recently Senior and Junior SAAWA Science Fairs. Mrs. McAuley has won numerous grants, including the PTA Innovative Educator Award and the Toshiba America Foundation grant, all to support her science research students.

She is a New York State Master Teacher and one of only nine finalists selected for the Regeneron Advanced Science Research Training program for August 2023. She is looking forward to all her students accomplish in the upcoming years.



Tami Cruz

Science Research Teacher
Grand Avenue Middle School, Bellmore- Merrick

Tami Cruz has taught Science at Grand Avenue Middle School in Bellmore, for 25 years. Prior to that, she had worked as a research intern at the Cold Spring Harbor DNA Laboratory, and at Princeton University.

Ms. Cruz originated and developed the Grand Avenue Middle School Science Research Program, which is unique in that it draws from its alumni in high school to return as mentors for the current middle school students. The program has developed a great number of award-winning research teams at science fairs across the Tri-State area, as well as finalists at the national Broadcom MASTERS/ Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge.

A graduate of Hartwick College and Long Island University, Ms. Cruz also serves as the Nassau County Subject Area Representative for the Science Teachers Association of New York State.



SAAWA Painting 2023 Award Winners

First Place:

Noelle Ki - George A Jackson Elementary School

Mikayla Chan - Garden City Elementary School

Wanqing- Emmy Xu - Stratford Elementary School

Second Place:

Gavin Bucci - Garden City Elementary School

Norah McCallum - Stratford Elementary School

Grace Venezia - Stratford Elementary School

Third Place:

Madison Clark - Garden City Elementary School

Amber Lin - Jericho Elementary School

Ryan Chalupa - Stratford Elementary School

Honorable Mention:

Alexa Corrigan - Stratford Elementary School

Kate Corrigan - Stratford Elementary School

Nichole Ki - George A Jackson Elementary School

Kayleigh Bell - Hemlock School



SAAWA Mini Grant Recipients

Michael Santos - Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School

Alexandra Mancusi, Isabella Panichella and Christopher Jacuch - St. Anthony's High School

Madalynn Bernstein and Aidan Cazalet - St. Anthony's High School

Justin Tao and Qian Wei - William A. Shine Great Neck South High School

Joanne Lee and Zoe Chan - William A. Shine Great Neck South High School

Shaan Merchant - William A. Shine Great Neck South High School

Julian Delarosa - Freeport High School

Evalia Koumpourlis, Esha Chandra and Adriana Zhao - Roslyn High School

Diya Sheth - Bethpage High School

Ankur Raghavan - Bethpage High School

Riya Saha, Sofia Maciel-Seidman and Joy Kim - Bethpage High School

Daniyal Khambati - Bethpage High School

Anthony DuBois, Ethan Gordon and Peter Tine - Commack High School

Jacqueline Quinn - Sacred Heart Academy

Audrey Ren - Paul D. Schreiber High School

Hannah Ren - Smithtown High School West



SAAWA High School Science Fair 2023 Award Winners

Biology

First Place:

Sean Krivitsky - Lynbrook Senior High School

Structural and Functional Characterization of TDP-43

Second Place:

Michelle Fang - Great Neck South High School

Evaluating the Efficacy of a Co-Supplementation of Luteolin and Vitamin D3 on Alzheimer's Disease-Induced Fruit Flies

Emelie Nguyen - Roslyn High School

Global DNA Methylation Profiles of WTC-Associated Breast and Prostate Cancer Tissue

Third Place:

Gianna Marsh - Elmont Memorial High School

Non-Antibiotic components contribute to antibiotic resistance in *Cutibacterium acnes*

Sidrah Ashrafi - George W. Hewlett High School

Characterization of the PP2A Gene Family in the Development of the Gametophytes of *Ceratopteris richardii*

Honorable Mention:

David Abelev and Emily Smukler - George W. Hewlett High School

Identifying and Characterizing Orthologues of Plant Cadmium Resistant (PCR) Genes in the Fern *Ceratopteris richardii*

Gabrielle Liechtung and Abdullah Ashrafi - George W. Hewlett High School

Investigating the Perception of Brassinosteroids in the Gametophytes of Seedless Fern *Ceratopteris richardii*

Aieshah Ashfer - Herricks High School

Design and Optimization of Biological Sensors to Detect the Oncogenic Rab35 GTPase

Anna Limb - Manhasset High School

The evaluation of a Combination Therapy of N-Acetyl-Cysteine, Nicotinamide, and a modified Ketogenic diet on hSOD-1 mutated *Drosophila melanogaster*

Jeremy Fahmy - Paul D. Schreiber High School

The Anti-Fatigue Effects of Lycopene and Glutinous Rice in Crickets



Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:

Rena Geula - Great Neck North High School

Comparison of Human Social Brain Activity During Eye-Contact With Another Human and a Humanoid Robot

Second Place:

Sahil Sanghvi - Plainview Old Bethpage High School

The Impact of Environmental Attitudes on Green Purchasing Behavior

Kiera Bowden - St. Anthony's High School

School, Social Life, and Stress, Oh My! How Do High Schoolers Get By?

Third Place:

Rory Meehan - Mineola High School

Using Literature to Enhance ASD Inclusivity

Ezra Loewy and Sabrina Grossman - Paul D. Schreiber High School

Income Interest and Impact: Examining the Relationship Between Teen Spending and Socially Responsible Companies

Mia Streiner and Rebecca Fabricant - Roslyn High School

Think Before You Ink: The Effects of Tattoos on Perceptions of Doctors

Honorable Mention:

Amit Chanoch - Great Neck North High School

Ramifications of Hyperphantasia and Aphantasia: Exploring Capabilities of Mental Imagery and Scenario Comprehension

Lily Rosof and Sarah Fernbach - Roslyn High School

The Effect of Hair Color and Job Type on Perceptions of Job Applicants

Anika Tolat and Sophie Glass - Roslyn High School

Like Parent Like Child? Evaluating the relationships between formal financial education, parental financial teaching, level of participant's education, and level of participant's parent's education with positive financial behaviors.

Middle School Science Fair



High School Science Fair





Earth and Environmental Sciences

First Place:

Justin Tao and Qian Wei - Great Neck South High School

UV/Visible Light Photocatalytic Degradation of Microplastics Using Ag@TiO₂/Fe₃O₄ Nanocomposite

Aidan Cazalet and Madalynn Bernstein - St. Anthony's High School

The Impact of Nutrient and Bacterial Pollutants on the Vegetation and Microbial Life in Long Island and New York State Freshwater Lakes

Second Place:

Joanne Lee and Zoe Chan - Great Neck South High School

Effectivity of Novel Trichloro(octadecyl)silane (TCODS) Coated Human Hair Composite Material as a Natural Oil Spill Sorbent

Third Place:

Kylie Person - Sayville High School

"Can an Algal Bioplastic Serve as an Alternative to Single Use Can Packaging?"

Tej Parekh - Paul D. Schreiber High School

Applying Overlapping Voronoi Diagrams to Fire Station Risk Assessment In Idaho

Paige Burch - Seaford High School

The Effects of Butylparaben on the Regenerative Abilities of Planaria (*Dugesia dorotocephala*)

Honorable Mention:

Tye Burrus - Copiague High School

The Efficacy of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* as a Mitigator of the Effects of Microplastics on the neurotransmission of *Crassostrea Virginica*

Diya Sheth - Bethpage High School

Building a Water Purity Sensor that Can Test pH, Turbidity, and Dissolved Oxygen

Shaan Merchant - Great Neck South

Plant Guardian: Hybrid Drone System and Deep Learning Approach to Plant Disease Classification

Physical Science

First Place:

Stefania Spallino and Caitlin Fitzpatrick - H. Frank Carey High School

The Optimization of Wrist Brace Design for the Treatment of Adolescent Carpal Tunnel Syndrome



Second Place:

Manav Gupta and William Wesson - Manhasset High School

Application of Piezoelectrics to Solar Cells to Optimize Energy Harvesting Abilities via Exposure to Varying Weather Conditions

Justin Margulies and Zachary Davidson - Roslyn High School

The effects of gyro-stabilization on hand stability and dexterity

Third Place:

Richard Zhuang - Great Neck South High School

Design and Synthesis of Novel Tumor-Targeting Drug Delivery Systems to treat Glioblastoma

Dylan Yoon and Emily Zhao - Manhasset High School

Sustainable Sargassum Supercapacitive Microbial Fuel Cell for Improved Bioelectricity Production with Additional Desalination

Honorable Mention:

Kailly Nocera - Seaford High School

An Analysis of Exoplanets WASP-33b, WASP-3b, CoRoT-8b, and HATP-32b Using the Transit Method

Emily Ieraci and Annmarie Schurr - H. Frank Carey High School

The Effect of External Devices on the Aerodynamic Performance of Model Buses

Olivia Colquhoun - St Anthony's High School

Using Two Plastic Scintillators as a Telescope to Measure Cosmic Muons at Sea Level

Nora Kane - Lynbrook Senior High School

Using Machine Learning to Predict the Density of Solar Winds

STEM

First Place:

Ian Laurence - Paul D. Schreiber High School

Computer Vision Applications in Advanced Security Camera Systems

Second Place:

Rachel Woo - Great Neck South High School

Assessing the Efficacy of the Tyrer-Cuzick Score on Increasing Breast Cancer Detection in High-Risk Women



Third Place:

Erin Wong - Great Neck South High School

Using Ensemble Methods to Create a Fair Pedestrian Trajectory Prediction Model.

Zaara Khan - H. Frank Carey High School

The Effect of Different Machine Learning Architectures on The Classification of Stages of Alzheimer's

Honorable Mention:

Alex Amir - Great Neck North High School

Deep Learning-Based Chest X-Ray Classification: A Comparative Study with Human Radiologists

Chigozirim Ifebi - Elmont Memorial High School

Machine Learning approach to identification of apple foliar disease

Humanity in Science Award

Mannat Jain - Garden City High School

Using Machine Learning to Translate Sign Language Gestures to Text and Speech

Rohini Das - Byram Hills High School

The Brain App – a Novel, Personalized, Non-invasive App to Measure Learned Models in the Brain

SAAWA Middle School Science Fair 2023 Award Winners

Biology

First Place:

Baneen Fatima and Anjali Rambaran - Howard T. Herber Middle School

Samantha Cassese, Kate Ragona and Vaughn Briseno - Long Beach Middle School

Jack Catalano, Lorenzo Cuomo and Gavin Gorelin - Long Beach Middle School

Second Place:

Julian Abell and Eva Figueroa - Howard T. Herber Middle School

James Long and Matteo Urrego - Long Beach Middle School

Kasper Yanowitch, Wyatt Wojcieszki and Jack Muskin - Long Beach Middle School



Third Place:

James Schumacher - Elmont Memorial High School

Kohana Bloom, Lorelei Guzowski and Demetra Frasiolas - Merrick Avenue Middle School

Honorable Mention:

Vivienne Martin and Jade Nandigama - Woodland Middle School

Tyler Malone and Kailyn Kim - Woodland Middle School

Jonathan Leskowicz and Autumn Malone - Mineola Middle School

Sophia Chen and Savannah Rivera - Mineola Middle School

Avery Bjelland, Olivia Frulio and Izabella Harichand - Howard T. Herber Middle School

Julia Bosco and Lily Wasserman - Mineola Middle School

Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:

Lyla Gaffoor, Mackenzie Reis and Isabella Viana Lynbrook - South Middle School

Second Place:

Zoey Khisova - Copiague Middle School

Julia Turnbull, Reet Kaur and Jenissa Philipose - Woodland Middle School

Third Place:

Prisha Chadha - Commack Middle School

Honorable Mention:

Victor Cassano, Dylan Meah and Noah Guzman - Woodland Middle School

Sabrina Rosenberg, Meagan McKeivitt and Carly Cruse - Woodland Middle School

Adrian Yang, Emma Huang and Annabella Pisapia - South Woods Middle School



Earth and Environmental Science

First Place:

Allison Philipose, Tinamarie Otero and Kaylee Ramoutar - W.T.Clarke Middle School

Tazbid Ajhor and Louis Romano - Grand Avenue Middle School

Second Place:

Kyra Hilton - Elmont Memorial High School

Hannah Wu and Adiba Zaman - W.T.Clarke Middle School

Third Place:

Phoebe Clancy, Sabrina Curcio and Justin Pfeffer - Merrick Avenue Middle School

Jacob Perlman, Kieran Reynolds and Krish Nainani - W.T.Clarke Middle School

Leah Terriberly and Joseph Thomas Wehrman - W.T.Clarke Middle School

Honorable Mention:

Marion Munson and Laila Sophia Khalfan - Merrick Avenue Middle School

Irie Waterbury - Copiague Middle School

Kamil Chaudhary, Finn Marrow and Alexander Dworkin - Grand Avenue Middle School

Brynn Goldberg and Cassel Koss - Long Beach Middle School

Eva Cohen, Elizabeth Ramos and Miriam Gunsburg - Merrick Avenue Middle School

Ethan Lee and Nicholas Fiducioso - Garden City Middle School

Isabelle DeNoto, Sienna Brunetti and Colleen Irwin - Garden City Middle School

Physical Sciences

First Place:

Partap Sidhu - Bethpage Middle School

Maria Mancilla-Lopez, Lesley Gonzalez Ramirez and Emily Davidson - Woodland Middle School



Second Place:

Shalaal Siddiqui, Matthew Mitringa and Nicholas Bhagroo - Woodland Middle School

Third Place:

Lea Cardenas, Ari Lespinasse and Elmer Alonso Romero Flores - Howard T. Herber Middle School

Isaiah Adeleke - Sewanhaka High School

Honorable Mention:

Alex Ally, Jaden Glenn and Matthew Wyss - Howard T. Herber Middle School

Labib Musad, Naveen Gopinathan and Subhan Khan - Sewanhaka High School

Saad Malick, Benjamin Wang and Trey Enriquez - Woodland Middle School

SAAWA Essay Contest 2023 Award Winners

How does climate change impact the world's food supply?

First Place:

Joleen Chau - John F. Kennedy High School

Zaara Khan - H. Frank Carey High School

Second Place:

Chloe Keil - St. Anthony's High School

Third Place:

David Martinez - St. Anthony's High School

Judy Hu - Ward Melville High School

Honorable Mention:

Vincent Tipaldo - David Martinez - St. Anthony's High School

Andrew Timson - St. Anthony's High School

Kshan Pandey - East Meadow High School

Liana Sohn - Herricks High School



Shannon Higgins - Walter G. O'Connell High School

Stefan Caiazzo - Sanford H. Calhoun High School

SAAWA Community Service 2023 Award Winners

First Place:

Grace LoPiccolo - St. Anthony's High School

Second Place:

Ricky Cheng - Mineola High School

Third Place:

Natalie Laszewski - Mineola High School

Honorable Mention:

Kylie O'Leary - Garden City Middle School

Presidential Volunteer Service Award Winners

Madalynn Bernstein - St. Anthony's High School

Aidan Cazalet - St. Anthony's High School

Daniela Parmigiani - St. Anthony's High School

Sophia Bellini - St. Anthony's High School

Grace Lopiccio - St. Anthony's High School

Ria Thomas - Mineola High School

Ryan Wadhwa - Greenwich High School



South Asian American Women's Alliance

Proposed Activities 2023-2024

Elementary Schools

1. Painting Contest
2. Recreational Mathematics Contest

Middle Schools

1. Essay Writing Contest
2. Recreational Mathematics Contest
3. Science Fair: March 2024

High Schools

1. SAAWA Mini Grants
Application of Artificial Intelligence in the Resolution of Environmental Issues
1. Essay Writing Contest
2. Science Fair: 9th graders only
3. Science Fair: 9-12 graders

For further information please contact:
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