

# The Bellport Clipper

May 2019

Issue 5

## Glancing Back to the Past, Moving Forward

Written by: Kanya Shah

Mr. Roeske, a band teacher who has taught multiple music classes over the course of 30 years, will be retiring this year. He has taught wind ensemble, symphonic band, beginner piano, and special ed music classes at Bellport High School. After school, Mr. Roeske has taught percussion, saxophone, trumpet, and brass ensembles along with clarinet and flute choirs. In addition to those chamber groups, he taught jazz and pep bands plus pit orchestra.



Mr. Roeske's first year of teaching in 1987.



Mr. Roeske on his farm with corn stalks.



Mr. Roeske shoveling oats on his family farm.

Mr. Roeske was raised in Northern Michigan on his family farm in Rogers City, MI. He learned to work hard from watching his dad for years wake up early each morning to get ready to teach at school, then do farm work afterward and grade papers often until late into the night. Mr. Roeske discovered his fervor for music at an early age when he played records on "his little red record player." After graduating high school, Mr. Roeske earned his Bachelor of Music Education from Central Michigan University, then his Master of Music Performance from the University of Arkansas. He was inspired by Robert Hohner who was his percussion teacher and mentor.

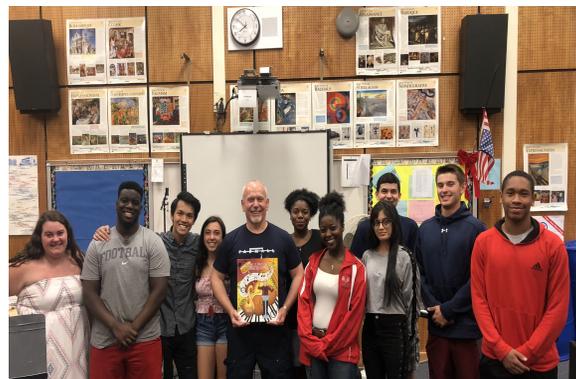


Roeske Farm: Drone Photo-Beans

"Mr. Hohner was the finest teacher I've ever come across because of his sheer joy for teaching and tough directness," said Mr. Roeske.

The main obstacle Mr. Roeske faced in teaching was not having enough time to get things done, and actually learning how to be a teacher, but he enjoyed every teaching moment because he loves music and sharing his passion which made teaching full of joy for him.

Twenty years after beginning teaching at Bellport High School, Mr. Roeske earned a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. He has completed more than 3000 hours of supervised clinical work, completed a certification program in Gestalt Psychotherapy, obtained a certification in substance abuse counseling (CASAC-T), passed his written clinical exams, and is currently a Licensed Psychotherapist (LMHC) with a private practice in Bellport and is a substance abuse counselor in Riverhead.



Mr. Roeske with Class of 2018.

Mr. Roeske is best known for being extremely honest with students about their performance, and setting high standards for students to achieve that requires pure dedication. Students feel comfortable talking to Mr. Roeske about anything because he is open minded and a good listener. "I heard practicing in the auditorium that sounded like the show STOMP so I went in to listen -- it was Mr. Roeske with four students, each on a different instrument. Amazing," said Mrs. Johnsen-Seeberger. Mr. Roeske's best accomplishment is the profound impact he made on students...on a personal and musical level along with being able to provide them a safe haven in the band room.

Once Mr. Roeske has retired, he plans to spend time engaging in professional and

spiritual growth as well as attend psychotherapy and meditation retreats because he believes in self-improvement and meditating to be mindful. In 2014 Mr. Roeske decided to take over his family's farm and is the 5th generation Roeske to own and operate it.



Mr. Roeske on stage during a 2019 concert.

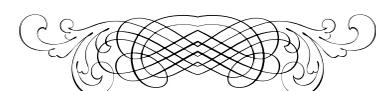


Mr. Roeske at his desk rocking his farm shirt.

Advice for teachers: No matter how busy you are, make sure to continue cultivating your love of what you teach and value your role as a teacher. Make your relationships with your students a top priority, and treat staff members like family. Be real with your students because kids benefit from interacting with people who are authentic and they learn to respect you. "Being real and straight forward with your students is important, even when it means you have to be strict."

Words of wisdom to students: "Find something that gives you that juicy passion and channel it in a positive way." Being open to new experiences, even though you may not be sure of the outcome, will result in an opportunity to grow. "Put your phone down and pay attention to your environment and the people around you because you're missing out."

Although Mrs. Johnsen-Seeberger, Mr. Roeske, and Mrs. Smith will be leaving this year, their influence as teachers on helping BHS develop will be remembered. All three retirees have left their mark on Bellport High School and contributed to building the best version of our school. Have a wonderful and peaceful retirement Mrs. Johnsen-Seeberger, Mr. Roeske, and Mrs. Smith!



# The Untold Story of Mrs. Smith's Legacy

Written by: Kanya Shah

Mrs. Smith, a current teacher of several business classes who will be retiring this year, is well versed in terms of work experience and practical knowledge. She gained a background in accounting prior to getting a teaching degree and certification. Mrs. Smith worked a variety of side jobs, especially in her family businesses.

She was home-schooled in cooking and learned a bit of everything. For ten years, Mrs. Smith had a catering business in which she supplied employees for private parties as well as food. Her inspiration was her aunt and her mom who were “culinary role models.”

Over the course of thirty-two years in Bellport, she has taught Accounting, Marketing, Microsoft Office, Virtual Enterprise, Career & Financial Management, Human Relations, Business Math, College Prep Class, Culinary and Business Math. She was the advisor for the school store, a class advisor and the advisor to the FBLA Club. Mrs. Smith advocated for the introduction of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), the Culinary program, and Virtual Enterprise because she saw a need for “hands-on learning” in the school. Additionally, she worked at the Chairperson of the CTE Department and was an Adjunct Professor at Dowling College for many years.

Her favorite course to teach is Virtual Enterprise (VE) because it teaches students how to problem solve and become leaders. It is a class that forces students to think for themselves, work as a team, and become independent. It's a unique course because VE is student-driven with supervision and you implement the knowledge you have into your business' operations. To make the most of this class, the best qualities to have as a student is to have “interest in the subject and understanding practical applications” because it allows the student to grow.

For the past 3 years, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Herrschaft have taught ENL students business classes. Mrs. Smith contributes the content of the course and Mr. Herrschaft communicated the information in Spanish.

Both teachers have made a difference in the way business classes are taught because they constantly come up with interesting activities that were fun and allowed students to learn in a “hands-on” way. Mrs. Smith “has enjoyed getting to know the students and relished teaching them because she found her ENL students were “eager to learn.”

The College Prep Class that used to run taught students critical skills such as resume and cheque writing, financial management, work experience, financial aid applications, and preparation for college. Not only did students learn the info, they also got to apply what they were taught. This was a class that offered guidance to all students who needed help figuring out where they wanted to go in their life. It is a course that Mrs. Smith wishes would be brought back. Fun fact: Mrs. Masem was Mrs. Smith's favorite student teacher!

Business and education go together because “one enhances the other” in ways that affect how you accumulate and apply your knowledge in real life experiences. As a mother of five children, Mrs. Smith learned how to be patient and was able to apply that to her teaching. “Being a mother shaped the way I taught and being a teacher gave me the ability to guide my children and students in the right direction.” The teacher in Mrs. Smith allowed her son to “learn through trial and error” while the businesswoman within her “showed him the right direction.”

Her husband owns Mr. Nick's Barber Shops is Sayville and Patchogue and her son owns Sobol Acai which has 31 locations. Mrs. Smith's virtual enterprise students watched the evolution of her son's franchise and were a source of feedback as well. Currently, Mrs. Smith owns Poppa Mia's Ice House in West Sayville for the past fifteen years. Focusing on her business and quality family time are part of Mrs. Smith's retirement plan. Fun fact: Mrs. Smith and her husband have two grandchildren who are two years and five months old. They call her “Mia” and her husband “Poppa,” naming them after Mrs. Smith's business.

In every field of work, there are often obstacles that need to be overcome. Mrs. Smith faced the shift from paper to electronic teaching; this affected how and what she taught especially because there were constant changes in the business world that required the course material to be updated frequently. There were ups and downs in her teaching career because some years, the business courses wouldn't run due to lack of enrollment and decisions made by the administration. Despite facing difficulties, Mrs. Smith persevered and had a successful career. The best part of her journey was “meeting amazing kids who overcame so many obstacles” and she was able to bond with her students and support them which takes understanding and compassion that are wonderful attributes to have as a teacher. Mrs. Smith has achieved many incredible accomplishments that she should be proud of. She has helped students become the best versions of themselves and unlock their potential. Like Henry Adams said, “A teacher affects eternity; she never knows where her influence stops.” Have a happy and prosperous retirement Mrs. Smith!



Mrs. Smith with her former students at the annual Virtual Enterprise Luncheon 2019.

# Esteemed Staff Member of BHS

Written by: Kanya Shah

It takes a big heart, patience and a sense of humor to shape young minds, and our librarian Mrs. Johnsen-Seeberger has those qualities. She has been a librarian for forty years, twenty of them at BHS. "I believe the most important thing that I have done with the library at BHS is to encourage curiosity, creativity and courage in exploring knowledge." She created a welcoming, comfortable information commons where various school community events take place, but where people can also just sit and read, talk or play a card game. She recalled, "My first week here I had a student jump up on a table and start dancing and I thought, 'This is going to be one happy and interesting place.'"



Mrs. J grew up in Massapequa further west on Great South Bay and attended Berner HS with 3,000 other students. She went to Brevard College in North Carolina, transferred to West Virginia Wesleyan and then earned her Master of Library & Information Science from Long Island University. While in college, she spent summers biking with a basket full of picture books to six elementary schools from Massapequa Public Library as a summer reading counselor. After graduating, she spent 4 years as a medical librarian at a start-up research firm with inventors and patent holders, then joined Harris Aerospace Corporation as an engineering and publications librarian.

Mrs. J has worked as an adjunct professor at Hofstra, L.I.U., Dowling College and Suffolk County Community College, teaching, and in the Reference and Government Documents departments. Mrs. J was part of the start of electronic publishing and was a researcher using ARPANET, before it became the Web. "The Internet IS a library," she confirmed. At SCCC, she enjoys helping Bellport HS graduates in their new classes there. "I want students to be skeptical as they search for the best information, so that they become independent thinkers and decision-makers."

BHS Library was renovated twice allowing Mrs. J to transform a book intensive space into a multi-classroom teaching library with different technology offered in each area. Above all, she is passionate about the importance of reading to student growth and knowledge of the world. So, she offers diversity – like audio and e-books, graphic novels, materials for special needs students, magazines, the NY Times and Newsday, over 90 databases and a well-stocked maker space where students can build an idea. "I do care what you read, but I care more that you read and that you are enjoying it and getting something out of it," stated Mrs. J. to the Clipper. "Not everything you read is going to change your life, but some words you will remember as helping you discover something important that you were missing."

Mrs. J remembers helping Mrs. Neff and Mrs. Bavosa uncover a time capsule from previous students under the old gazebo with garden plans submitted to a national school garden competition; the Computer Club Halo Tournaments; planning new library décor around the Matisse painting created by 16 art students and donated to the library by Mrs. Fandale; the happy families at Pasta with Santa night with a sauce trail down the hall; helping start the Media Lab, and watching students discover the Span Wall and discussion.



Mrs. J would like students and teachers to be more willing to try new things – "Jump in - both feet!" she said. "Be inclusive instead of exclusive, listen more before speaking, have real conversations with people face-to-face, give hardware a rest, read what interests you, but count to 10 before clicking send, solve problems together, plant a tree, and be grateful and merry as you make others feel good about themselves."

Mrs. J is going to enjoy not being tethered to a computer and bells; creating a new plan with less data and more flip flops; journeys with lots of train travel, some century bike tours, glass blowing workshops at Corning and Brooklyn; more Comic Cons less salt; jewelry making, etching, welding and water coloring; slow food cooking; firing up her telescope and sewing machine; more spontaneity and carry-ons, getting together with family and friends --- and learning by listening to people's stories. "Peace Out!" she waved.



# Avengers Assemble!

Written by: Elisha Feliz

With Iron Man being released in 2008 with a box office opening weekend of \$98.6 million to Avengers: Endgame making 1.2 billion worldwide for their opening weekend leads you to think of how much the Marvel cinematic universe has grown over the years and how they've reached this audience.



Most children grew up watching animated Marvel shows and read Marvel Comics so the infatuation many people have with these superheroes isn't surprising. Who wouldn't want to see their favorite childhood hero come to life on the big screen? However, the same could be said for DC, which is another comic book publisher that also puts out superhero movies. Why hasn't DC has the same amount of success that Marvel has had?



One main focus point of the Marvel cinematic universe is how all of the movies seamlessly connect and they're able to develop this universe. DC has had its fair share of hit movies but Marvel's ability to consistently release great movies one after the other and not have a movie do significantly bad is admirable. Another factor that aids Marvel's success is the president of Marvel Studios, Kevin Feige. Feige has produced all of the Marvel movies and the recurring face on set as well as someone who understands the universe well



which will help keep this era of movies easily connected. Anthony and Joe Russo, known as the Russo brothers directed Avengers: Endgame and other Marvel movies which had a lot of success such as Avengers: Infinity War and Captain America: The Winter Soldier. They revealed that they were going to take a break from Marvel. Anthony stated "It's our Endgame, at least for now," which of course upset a handful of fans. However, the impact the Russo brothers had on the Marvel cinematic universe will never be forgotten.



Avengers: Endgame tied up over a decade worth of movies which was definitely a lengthy task. Nevertheless, the reviews and how well this movie is doing in the box office prove that their hard work paid off. It is breaking records for the biggest movie in opening history and is most likely on its way to become legendary so this shows how much the world cares about these superheros. If you still haven't seen Avengers: Endgame yet, make sure to bring a box of tissues because it's definitely one of the most heart wrenching movies of the year.

## Ending the Year with Style: WISE Ceremony

Written by: Kanya Shah

Selected sophomores, juniors, and seniors participated in the 2018-2019 Winter and Spring Wise Sessions covering different STEM field topics. The sophomores worked on material science during the five winter sessions and civil engineering in the spring, doing various hands on activities. The juniors worked on quantum physics and the seniors worked on computer science for both seasons. Overall, this year at WISE was a huge success because the students were able to explore diverse science and math subjects ultimately learning something new.



Sophomore Capstone Event Group Shot with Mrs. Bellante.



BHS Sophomores awarded for participation in Winter 2018 and Spring 2019 WISE sessions.



Mrs. Bellante, Mr. Franek, and Mr. Romashko receive recognition as marvelous science teachers.

# Exploring the World of Art

Written by: Kanya Shah

Having the opportunity to observe artwork and talk to young artists about how they made their art work is truly amazing because you can learn a lot from one conversation with a stranger. At the Five Towns College Long Island Art Show in Dix Hills, some of Ms. Fandale, Mr. Gauler, Mr. Payne, Mr. Varley's students had the chance to showcase their talent.

The students set up their artwork on boards and were adjudicated by designated judges who were college professors or teachers. Long Island High School students presented their artwork to receive feedback about how to improve and develop style as an artist. There were a variety of drawings, animations, photographs, and computer graphic pieces that students had created which clearly displayed their ingenuity.

Students also had opportunities to explore Five Towns College campus classrooms for broadcast journalism/radio, virtual reality, film, and graphic design.

The virtual reality (VR) simulation connected an online 3D software to hardware (glasses) that allowed people to visit a simulation of a laboratory. Mariz Baslios experienced VR by using remote controls to pick up objects that weren't tangible outside of the program while wearing glasses to explore her surroundings.

The radio broadcast room was occupied by college students who were doing a live interview. On stage, there were people broadcasting the weather and news which allowed the guests to watch the broadcast preparation and execution process. The film and graphics rooms contained examples of finished work and how to edit shots.

These arts are prominent in many jobs such as news reporting, movie production, engineering, etc. Although you may not be good at all aspects of art, you may have talents in writing or design. There are plenty of opportunities to do trial and error to figure out what career you'd like to pursue.

Ultimately, this field trip was a learning experience about honest criticism and career possibilities in Media Arts.



Mariz Baslios (BHS)



Alexis Spence (BHS)



Genesis Martinez (BHS)



Group shot on Five Towns College Campus.

# Building a Stable Future (Trip to IUOE)

Written by: Kanya Shah

In Queens, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Herrschaft's business students were given an opportunity to explore a construction site and learn about different aspects of the construction industry at the International Union of Operating Engineers construction site.

Infrastructure is constantly being maintained and built upon to ensure that a structure, such as a building or tunnel, won't collapse. In order to do so, architects design the structure, civil engineers evaluate the reliability through scientific applications, and operating engineers build the end product.

There are several jobs as operating engineers available in construction such as plumbing, welding, electrical engineering, carpentry, equipment operator, etc. As an operational engineer, you'd work with metals and machinery on a motley of projects such as tunnel and pipeline building but it would depend on what you specialize in.



Architects work with planning and designing the structure which comes in two main steps. Step 1 is "pre-construction assessment" which is an analysis of project feasibility and potential effects on the environment that often involves teamwork with civil engineers. Step 2 is developing the final construction plan which includes layouts of the structure and specific construction details.

Civil engineers thoroughly analyze the structure's strength, looking at effects of wind, heat, pressure, etc and use math to calculate values that will make the structure effectively stand. For example, bridge building involves online simulations in which the tension and compression values are tested several times before construction. Each job within this industry plays a role in making sure the infrastructure is reliable.



To be successful in the industry, you need to be well trained and aware of safety procedures. When you work in construction as an operating engineer, the risks of getting injured are high. To prevent accidents, extensive training is required. There are rigorous training programs for free at the IUOE that call for dedication and time. In these programs, potential candidates are taught proper safety rules and content necessary to thrive. It's crucial to follow directions and communicate with your team members because one of the top priorities is to ensure everyone's safety.

Being part of a union means that you are entitled to member benefits such as higher wages, health insurance, and pensions. You have representation to negotiate job related conflicts and job security which means you cannot be fired without a cause. Also, there are low cost or free apprenticeship and training programs available. Although there are nice benefits, someone without a dedication to the job may struggle to keep up with the hard work, especially if they're only doing the job for the benefits and not out of interest.

Working for a construction or any labor union is something to consider when deciding what you'd like to do after you graduate from high school. If you are not a studious person in terms of math and science, then you may want to consider becoming an operating engineer for a construction union as a worthy candidate for a job application.

While the training programs require commitment, you don't need to be good at certain topics because the course is based on practical knowledge and applications. If you are interested in working at IUOE, set up a meeting with your guidance counselor to discuss the career openings or any questions you may have.

Working in the construction industry is no easy feat but in doing so, you would be part of building the nation to its maximum strength.



# “Our Planet - Our Crisis - What’s Next?” (UN Climate Action Conference)

Written by: Kanya Shah

Students from Mr. Romasko’s AP Environmental and Mrs. Palladino’s AP World History class went to a United Nations conference that addressed environmental issues such as different types of pollution and environmental degradation. The guest speakers talked about sectors of the environment, land, and ocean, that are being polluted by humans and large corporations.

Eve Gartner, a senior attorney in the Health Communities Program at EarthJustice who leads the legal team with regulating pesticides and chemicals, discussed limiting chemical pollution because it negatively impacts organ and body growth in children. “Plastic is an issue in several household products and basic products” including baby bottles, packaging, utensils, etc. Childhood cancer rates increase because there are high amounts of chemicals that contaminate our soil and potable water source. A major obstacle in decreasing chemical emissions is the economic factor involved that puts profits above people’s wellbeing which makes it

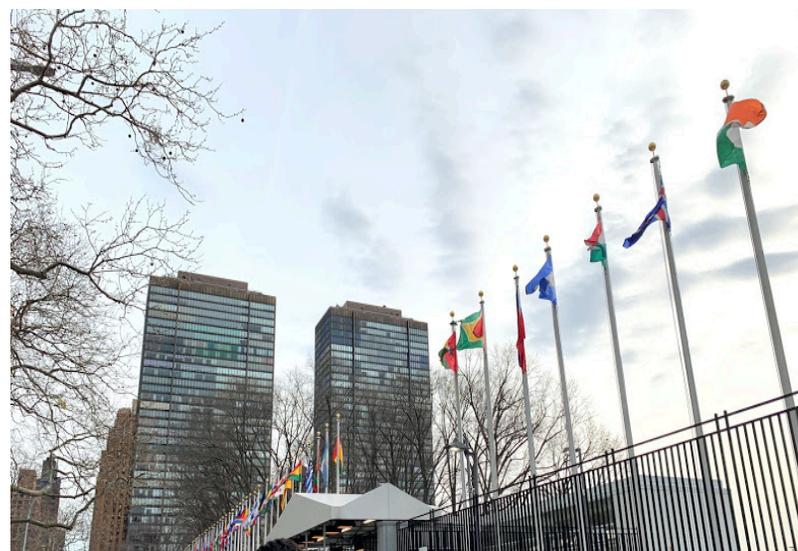
difficult to reach a solution. Industrial factions and the petrochemical industry is unregulated by the government. This is particularly harmful because petrochemicals release lots of greenhouse gases into the environment. The petrochemical and plastic market is experiencing financial growth at the expense of the Earth.

Fabien Cousteau is an aquanaut, oceanographic explorer, and environmental advocate who believes that plastic pollution can be stopped if people take action. When exploring thousands of feet underneath the water’s surface, finding negative human impact is terrible. Coral reefs have plastic bags and packaging stuck to them while sea turtles choke to death on food/soda cans.

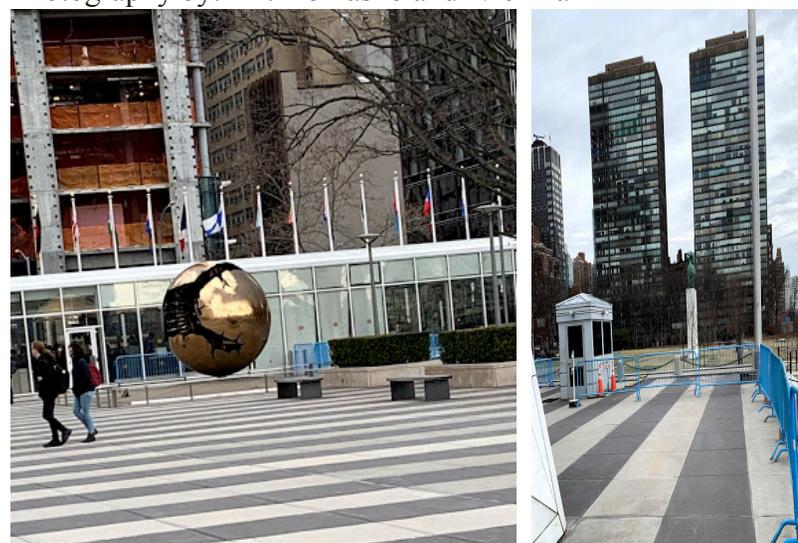
The problem with plastic in the ocean is those small particles called microplastics remain in the water, infiltrating our ecosystems and food, including unseen parts of the ocean. Mr. Cousteau mentioned steps that people could take to reduce plastic waste. Cutting out plastic usage in schools and counties will help lower the amount of waste in the ocean.

Single-use plastic bags, straws, utensils, etc are necessary when there are reusable options available such as metal straws and tote bags. His non-profit organization, The Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center, is dedicated to making a positive change in the world, both above and below sea level.

Being aware of what contributes to making pollution worse and applying gradual changes will allow you to be part of the solution.



Photography by: Mr. Romasko and Ivie Diaz



# Earth Day 2019!

Written by: Audrey Barry

Earth Day is a holiday that is widely known as the day of preserving nature and reducing the amount of waste, electricity usage, and the carbon footprint of people. It also is celebrated by encouraging and performing the three R's— reducing, reusing, and recycling— as much as possible. While many people are familiar with the celebrations involved with Earth Day; the origins of the day itself are not as widely known.



Picture the United States in the 70s: the Apollo 13 Space Mission, involvement in the Vietnam War, and the height of counterculture. Counterculture was an anti-establishment movement that originated in the United Kingdom, started in the United States in the 60s, and spread and became prevalent in the 70s. As the counterculture movement began on college campuses, many of the people supporting counterculture were young adults and college students who grew up opposing the contemporary mainstream ideals of war involvement and heavy industrialization and urbanization. These young people became the driving force behind the anti-war and environmental movements of the 60s and 70s.

A watershed moment, or a turning point, during this era was the publication of Rachel Carlson's New York Times bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962. In a total of 24 countries, more than half a million copies were sold, spreading awareness about the concern for the environment, living organisms, and pollution that affects humans. The steadily rising environmental concern and awareness brought on by Carlson's *Silent Spring* ultimately set the stage for the first national Earth Day in 1970.

The main founder was Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin. Two events contributed to his idea for a national Earth day; the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, and the ongoing student anti-war movement.

Nelson saw the importance in turning the students' passion and energy towards anti-pollution, as well. He recruited Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey and former Harvard student Denis Hayes along with 85 other staff members to help promote the new Earth Day idea. April 22nd was chosen because it fell after Spring break and before final exams— the perfect date for students.

20 million Americans attended the first annual Earth Day on April 22nd, 1970. Streets, parks, and auditoriums served as the locations where Earth Day supporters demonstrated for a healthier, more sustainable environment and lifestyle. Rallies were held from coast to coast. Colleges and universities nationwide protested against polluting-factories and power plants, oil spills, toxic dumps, the use of pesticides, and many other environmental dangers.

The Earth Day movement of 1970 achieved a rare bipartisan approval. Differing political parties and demographics—Democrats and Republicans, rich and poor, young and old, city-goers and farmers— put aside their differences to support the planet that they all shared.

The first Earth Day was a success. Later that year, the United States Environmental Protection Agency passed the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. 20 years later, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another campaign; but this time, global. 200 million people from 141 countries came together for Earth Day in 1990 to call out huge environmental issues. Earth Day in 1990 greatly increased recycling efforts worldwide. Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 by President Bill Clinton for his role as the founder of Earth Day.

Earth Day 2000 was led again by Hayes, who focused on the issue of global warming and promoting the use of clean energy sources. Earth Day 2000 had a specific advantage— the internet. Through this global network, activists from around the world were able to communicate ideas and organize themselves more easily and efficiently. With the growing awareness also came a growing opposition and cynicism towards environmental activists. Despite the divide in society on environmental issues; The Earth Day Network—which coordinates events involving Earth day— started the A Billion Acts of Green® project, which grew into The Canopy Project. The Canopy Project focuses on reforestation and the strengthening of communities through planting trees.



New tree planted in the courtyard by Atrium Gardening club, 2019.

The Earth is our home. While many of us live in the comfort of our technological lives; it is often forgotten that nature is the foundation. But you can get involved, too. If you use plastic water bottles, don't throw them in the trash can! The Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ) club has placed blue recycling bins around the school solely for plastic recycling. Also, many classrooms have paper recycling boxes for scrap papers. Any action, no matter how small, is a step towards a better place for us all :)