



Photo by Shea Franco

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Photo by Tristan DeLucia

Columbia's Youngest Entry Wins Gold

BY Shea Franco, 6th Grade, Tristan DeLucia, 5th Grade and Johnny Bertan, 4th Grade

Thankful. The day before Thanksgiving, Editor-In-Chief Audrey Franco and her staff of Shea Franco, left, Daniel Pardini, middle, and Wes Rivingston, right, are notified their work earned a near perfect score for the premier issue of Seashore Student Views Jr.

Seashore Student Views Jr. accomplished the impossible. The youngest staff in the USA, composed of third graders and a fifth grader, scored 846 points out of 1,000 in a critique by Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) at Columbia University, earning themselves Gold Medalist Status. The publication was judged in 140 categories against middle to high school students.

The announcement was made November 22 by CSPA Assistant Director Antonio Rodriguez. According to the Board of Judges, the newspaper received more than 50 outstanding marks in essential, verbal and design.

They said the staff editorial “Should Cursive Still Be Taught In School?” showed leadership. They liked the “catchy” headlines and that the journalistic writing style was used throughout the publication.

Shea Franco, along with Editor-In-Chief Audrey Franco, Daniel Pardini, Wes Rivingston and Julian Hurtado, were excited.

“I am very proud about the way the newspaper turned out and hope that the current issue will be even better,” (Audrey) Franco said.



Photo by Tristan DeLucia

Pre-Kindergarten students plant Gus' Garden on April 20 for their annual Earth Day project to remember Gus Villapiano, who spent his life making their campus better.

Earth Day Project To Remember

BY Johnny Bertan, 4th Grade

Cold weather did not stop Seashore Pre-Kindergarten from planting a memorial garden to celebrate Earth Day and remember Coach Gus Villapiano, who passed away March 30. Wearing winter coats, three classes of young children were excited to do their project on April 20.

“Every year, we look for a meaningful way for students to participate in Earth Day. Coach Gus put so much effort into making the Seashore campuses beautiful for the children, that we chose planting a special garden to keep him in our memory,” Pre-Kindergarten Director Tracy Gallo said.

According to Gallo, her husband Bob helped prepare the soil to plant rhododendrons, daylilies, rose bushes and shrubs. Boys and girls also painted rocks donated by Celtic Concepts to place around the perimeter.

“This was the most fun project ever,” Pre-K student Ethan Graminski said.

Full STEAM Ahead Students Earn Bronze At Science Olympiad



Photo by Shea Franco

Using only heat, iodine, vinegar, water and a magnifying glass, Olivia Conner, left, and Audrey Franco, right, identify seven different substances in the Mystery Powder Event at Science Olympiad 2018 with the clock running on February 23.

BY Tristan DeLucia, 5th Grade, and Audrey Franco, 4th, Grade

Seashore fourth to sixth graders participated in Science Olympiad 2018 at West Amwell Elementary School in Lambertville, NJ February 23. (see Full Steam Ahead on page 4)

Letter To The Reader



Photo by Maria Guerrero

BY Audrey Franco, 4th Grade

Welcome to *Seashore Student Views*. I'm Editor-In-Chief Audrey Franco. My family is known as The Diggers and I hope you dig this publication.

Last year, as the youngest participants in the country, we won gold at Columbia University for *Seashore Student Views Jr.* To win gold again, we have worked extra hard this year and are hoping for a Crown.

For this edition, we learned a new program called Adobe InDesign. It was a little challenging, but Shea Franco, our Graphic Designer, was able to master it quickly with help from graphic artist Robert Hazelrigg.

Don't forget to read *Preschool Hits Ball Out of Park*. Don't miss *Seashore Alum Voted Shore's Greatest*. And don't miss the *Views Reviews* column.

I would like to thank Sharon Villapiano for teaching our Journalism class and helping us with this newspaper. I also want to congratulate the *Seashore Student Views* staff for doing a wonderful job this year.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy.

Let's PROtest Shoot Down Guns In School

Matt Post, a 12th grade student board member of Montgomery County Public Schools, delivered a speech covered by NBC on the steps of Capitol Hill on National Walkout Day March 14. He was talking about the 17-minute walkout that took place at schools throughout the country to honor each of the 17 students and teachers, who lost their lives at the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School February 14.

"We refuse to learn in fear. We reject turning our schools into prisons. We will accept nothing less than comprehensive gun control, and if it's what it takes, we will shame our national policymakers into protecting us," Post said.

The *Seashore Student Views* Editorial Board unanimously agrees with Post.

But not everyone shares this opinion.

"The student marchers are about to learn the same hard lessons that previous waves of young activists were forced to

absorb. Trying to persuade the country to change on an issue on which sentiment and ideology runs deep is a long, frustrating business. And it is not a battle you win by demonizing the very people whose votes you need," Jonathan S. Tobin wrote in an article entitled *Parkland and the Problem With Waging a Youth Culture War*, which appeared in the *National Review* on March 16.

learn what a protest is and support not having guns in schools," Rivingston said.

In an *Asbury Park Press* article entitled *March For Our Lives: Gun Control Protests Draw Thousands in Asbury Park, Red Bank*, Mike Davis and Erik Larsen wrote that young and old came together to call for legislative action on gun control.

"Students carrying portraits

"This is why we want to protest, to actually change the people's minds and make them understand why we shouldn't have guns," Gupta said holding a sign reading "love your kids, not guns."

"We need to convince the people that we can't fight back with violence. That will only create more violence," Gupta added.

According to Social Studies Teacher Chris Stone, protests are an effective way to bring change.

"We do not want to be in a world where teachers carry guns," the SSV Editorial Board said.

In a school poll, asking if this kind of protest can bring about change, 100% of the students and teachers, who participated, said "Yes."

As we go to press, sadly another school shooting took place in Santa Fe, Texas.

Before this occurs again and more lives are lost, we think change has to happen and it has to happen NOW.



Photo By Wes Rivingston

"Love your kids, not guns." - Rishay Gupta

The SSV Editorial Board strongly disagrees with Tobin.

Editorial Page Editor Wes Rivingston, who was at the *Asbury Park March For Our Lives Protest*, saw 3,000 people chanting NRA has got to go.

"I saw many signs saying 'Enough Is Enough.' At the rally, one of the most impressive was 'We Are Not Asking For Change, We're Demanding It.'"

"My dad took me so I could

of the 17 people, who died in Parkland led the walk down the Asbury Park boardwalk," Davis and Larsen reported.

"They did this to draw attention to the need for more restrictions on who can buy a gun."

"After the Parkland shooting, it was hard to feel safe at River Plaza Elementary School in Middletown," 10 year-old Rishay Gupta said.

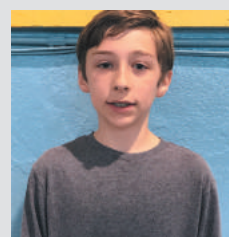
ROVING REPORTER

BY Maria Guerrero, 6th Grade, and Tyler Bowden, 5th Grade

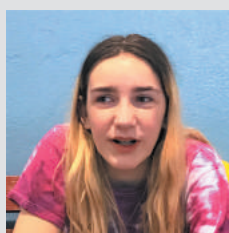
Do you think a protest like National Walk Out Day can enact change and should teachers bear arms?



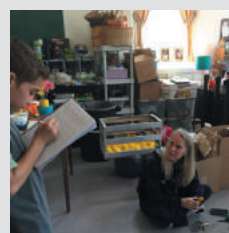
"Yes, to an extent. Maybe if guns were kept in a wall slot with protective glass and only the teachers had a hammer to break the glass, an alarm would sound and students would have a chance to evacuate." - Shea Franco, 6th Grade



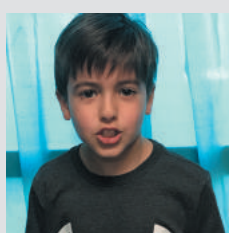
"No, because mentally troubled children could be able to get their hands on a firearm and that would be very dangerous." - Eoghan Ryan, 6th Grade



"No, teachers shouldn't have guns in school, because someone could accidentally get hurt." - Olivia Conner, 6th Grade



"I support the walkout because kids should be able to have an opinion and speak their minds. But, I don't think teachers should have guns in the classroom." - Jen Schnoor, Kindergarten Teacher



"No, it's not safe to have a gun in school because what if someone shot it by accident." - Alex Guerrero, 4th Grade



"When young people protest, older people take notice. It takes a lot for students to get upset enough to protest and this was a cause worth protesting." - Chris Stone, Social Studies Teacher

Students Learn About Bills And Barracks On Trip To Trenton

BY Jayda Bowden, 5th Grade

Seashore kindergarten to sixth graders visited the State House in Trenton on March 29, where they learned about symbols and how a bill becomes a law. Students had the privilege of going into the Courtroom and onto the Assembly floor.

“We went to Trenton, because it is our state capital and it is very important for all students to know that it is very historical. I wanted them to understand the significance of the part Trenton played in the American Revolution,” Social Studies teacher Chris Stone said.

As part of the trip, the third through sixth grade went back in time to the Old Barracks Museum. They met characters, in period dress, who showed them how, why and when they performed their duties.

One was an army general, the next was a soldier’s wife and last, but not least, was a nurse. The nurse told students how to get rid of smallpox and why it was important to prevent the disease. The army general demonstrated how to fire an old fashioned gun called a musket. And, the soldier’s wife showed them where they would sleep, what they would eat, what they would wear and the long journey they would take if they were there with George Washington.



On the Trenton trip, kindergarten to second graders find out about NJ state symbols, while older students learn how a bill becomes law and visit the Old Barracks.



Seashore students from kindergarten to middle school had an opportunity to see the new LSC Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium May 18. They traveled through the universe, went on a roller coaster “ride” and ate roasted crickets.

Photo by Audrey Franco

Out Of World Trip To Largest Planetarium

BY Jayda Bowden, 5th Grade

Kindergarten to sixth graders visited the new Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium and Liberty Science Center Giant Dome Theater on May 18.

According to Kindergarten Teacher Jen Schnoor, the trip was arranged to give students an opportunity to see the largest planetarium in the Western Hemisphere.

They traveled through the universe, explored distant planets and observed asteroid fields. In addition, students went on a virtual roller coaster ride and, at Eat and Be Eaten, got to try roasted crickets, which tasted like unflavored sunflower seeds.

There are only four other planetariums like this in the world.

SPANISH TRIP DEAD ON

Students See Day Of Dead At Basie

BY Maria Guerrero, 6th Grade, and Amelia McGuire, 5th Grade

Seashore fourth through sixth graders learned more about the Day of the Dead by going to Count Basie Theatre to watch a Dia de los Muertos show on October 26.

“We did this to gain a better perspective of the Mexican culture,” Spanish teacher Valerie Guerrero said. She arranged the educational trip to give students a chance to understand more about celebrating the country’s heritage.

At Count Basie, entertainers explained what Dia de los Muertos was. Wearing colorful dresses, women performed a traditional Mexican dance. They made gritos, which are falsetto screams, in the middle of the stage. Then, the men danced with the women. Last, the male dancers came out at the end with real mashetties.

“We have gotten some serious injuries rehearsing with the mashetties,” they said.

After the show, Seashore students went to Juanitos, a Mexican restaurant, and ordered food in Spanish. For dessert, Guerrero gave the class skeleton cookies she baked.

The students returned to Count Basie Theatre on May 4 to see Flor De Toloache, a Latin Grammy nominated all women Mariachi band, as part of their Cinco De Mayo celebration.

Photos by Bob Burt

Seashore Student Views Staff

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Our mission is to report what is happening at The Seashore School and give students a chance to have their voices heard.

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As part of Spanish class, students in fourth to sixth grade go to Day Of The Dead performance at Count Basie and have lunch at Juanitos. They finish the year by seeing Flor De Toloache for Cinco De Mayo.

Photo by Valerie Guerrero

Full STEAM Ahead At S

With the clock running, the Seashore Team used science, tech in the 2018 Science Olympiad on February 23 and brought hom



OUT OF STEAM. The balloon powered racer would have performed better, if it hadn't hit an observer's water bottle. Johnny Bertan, Tristan DeLucia and Shea Franco watch the car they built take off down the course and were frustrated with the outcome.



Jumping in at the last minute when Jayda Bowden was out sick, Audrey Franco and Johnny Bertan build a spiral tower using only 50 marshmallows and 100 toothpicks. Their first attempt, which was made out of boxes stacked on top of each other, was not strong enough to stand.



(continued from Page 1) They competed against 12 schools in 12 timed trials that tested their STEAM skills throughout the day.

Using just heat, water, vinegar, iodine and a hand lense, fourth grade Audrey Franco and sixth grade Olivia Conner identified corn starch, flour, baking soda, white sand, salt and sugar to come in third out of 13.

According to Conner, the pressure was on. "Audrey and I had to figure out the powders while we were timed," she said.

Science Teacher Bob Burt congratulated the team.

"Kudos and congratulations to our Mystery Powder team members Audrey and Olivia, who earned a bronze medal in what was considered to be the most challenging event of the day," he said.

"We are very proud of all the Seashore students who competed. They worked hard since early January to research, design, test and modify thermal insulators, rubber band catapults, balloon powered cars, marshmallow and toothpick towers,

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Science Olympiad 2018

...nology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) skills to compete
...ne a bronze medal. Photos by Bob Burt and Tristan DeLucia



Olivia Conner and Tristan DeLucia fill bottles with different levels of water to play My Country Tis' Of Thee and Mary Had A Little Lamb.



Olivia Conner, left, and Audrey Franco, right, win a bronze medal for the Mystery Powder challenge.



Alex Guerrero, left, and Daniel Pardini, right, are amazed at how far their rubber band went when they shot it from the catapult to the target.



Shea Franco, left, and Johnny Bertan, right, make a newspaper tower that could withstand wind from a blow dryer. They think they have a first place winner since theirs was originally the tallest and strongest, but other teams won for being taller.

...asters, load-bearing barges, paper airplanes, helicopters and dropping an
...feet without having it break,” Burt said.
...rding to Science Olympiad Co-Advisor Chris Stone, Seashore entered the
...tion to spark an interest in science, take learning beyond the textbook
...e students a hands-on understanding of principles and practices.
...y learned a lot, increased STEAM knowledge and had fun participating in
...at,” Stone said.

On February 26, the children met for an after action report about the Science Olympiad and what they could do to prepare to take gold in next year’s competition. Plans are to work harder, apply what they learned and bring home more medals in 2019.



Photo by Olivia Conner

Seafood On Water

By Olivia Conner, 6th Grade

When I visited The Marina in Oceanport, I had a really good time. They specialize in seafood like lobster, crabs, clams and much more.

The food was awesome, reasonably priced and amazingly cooked. Their meat was very tender and juicy and the mac-n-cheese had the right amount of cheese.

The waiters were kind and courteous. Their service was very good, but the food could have come out quicker, so it wouldn't have been cold.

There were beautiful views of the water and docks you could look at. I give it nine out of 10 forks.



Dash To Buy Geometry Dash

By Tyler Bowden, 5th Grade, and Alex Guerrero, 4th Grade

Geometry Dash is most likely the most frustrating game ever made. It is a rhythm-based platformer game, developed and published by RobTop Games released for \$1.99 USD for IOS and Android and \$3.99 USD on Steam.

While frustrating, it is fun. The game has great graphics and good music. After practice, it gets easy.

Players all over the world can make online levels. You can participate in this game on mobile devices and desktop. If your child wants to play, feel free because it is approved for people four and older. We rate it eight out of 10 shapes.



Photo by Johnny Bertan

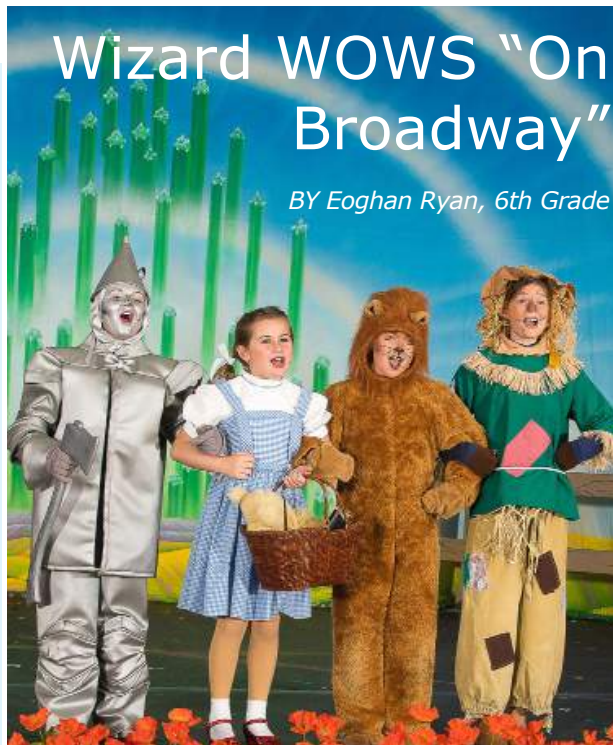
VaCAY

Thumbs Up For Cool Cayman
Johnny Bertan, 4th Grade

The Cayman Islands are the best choice for a vacation in the world. Tourists can swim with turtles and snorkel with stingrays. The water is always nice and hot.

You can go sport fishing for sharks. You can catch a baby or large shark. You can also feed stingrays. In addition, you can rent a mansion like Villa Mora with a large pool, heated spa and ocean views.

It is so much fun, we go there every year. The problem is it takes five hours to get to there by plane. I rate it 10 out of 10 fish.



Seashore Players take sold out audiences down the yellow brick road in *The Wizard Of Oz* in the Seashore Theater on April 20 to 22.

Photos by Greg Holmes

Seashore Players Shine In Annie

By Alex Guerrero, 4th Grade

Seashore Players, an after school theater program, performed *Annie Jr. "On Broadway"* in Long Branch December 1 through 3.

According to founding Director Renee Harrison-Pincus, this was the perfect choice for the winter holiday show because it takes place during Christmas.

"Annie is a classic musical and we had the cast to fit the right production. It was a good show to challenge our more experienced performers to musical theater," Harrison-Pincus said.

The 42-member cast practiced four days a week for three months to prepare for the show that lasted three days. There was even a golden lab named Sonny Lynch, who played Annie's dog Sandy.

The show sold out early and a fourth performance was added.

"It was fun," sixth grader Maria Guerrero, who played Grace Farrell, said.

Seashore Players sold out all four performances of their Spring Musical *The Wizard Of Oz*, held in the 410 Broadway Theater April 20-22. The show featured Sydney Retino as Dorothy, Nora Collard as the Scarecrow, Giovanna Failla as the Tinman and Dakota Diehl as the Cowardly Lion. Thankfully, this reporter got front row seats.

"We picked *The Wizard Of Oz* because it was a family favorite and had enough roles for each child to shine," Founding Director Renee Harrison-Pincus said.

Eighteen Seashore students were in the 43-member cast, which practiced three times a week for three months to learn their lines and songs.

From audience reaction, stealing the show was Diehl, along with first grader Abby Kinkela as the Coroner, Audrey Franco as the Mayor of Munchkin City, Olivia Conner as Glinda and Maria Guerrero, flying in as the Wicked Witch of the West.

A highlight of the musical was what Harrison-Pincus calls "Disney Magic." Her husband Craig Pincus, from Sidney Productions, recreated the tornado scene to surprise the audience with special effects on the ceiling. It featured Dorothy looking out of the window and seeing a chicken clucking, a spinning cow, Marie Malara knitting in a rocking chair, Coach Lou Conner and Mark McGee paddling by in a canoe and Amelia McGuire as Miss Gulch transforming into the Wicked Witch of the West.

The show was directed by Harrison-Pincus and Malara, who credited music director McGee, dance captains (Olivia) Conner and Failla, Pincus and the first to eighth grade cast for its success.



The sun comes out for the Hooverville Bums and Annie in Seashore Players' winter production of *Annie Jr.* in the Seashore Theater on December 1 to 3.

Photos by Greg Holmes

Preschoolers Hit Ball Out Of Park In Gym And Science Show

By Alex Guerrero, 4th Grade, and Johnny Bertan, 4th Grade

Preschool students took part in the annual Gym and Science Show on April 23 and 26. The event was held at 345 Second Avenue.

According to P.E. teacher Coach Shawn Metz, boys and girls prepared for the whole year. The purpose was to show their parents what they learned and how their fine and gross motor skills have developed from September until April.

The science portion was lead by instructor Diana D'Ambrosi. She helped them demonstrate what they were taught about mixing colors and the seasons. They also planted seeds to go along with their study of living things.

In the gym section, the children scaled the Super Climber, that was almost as tall as Metz. They proved they had hand-eye coordination by hitting balls off a tee. In addition, they raced through an obstacle course, which included crawling through a tunnel and grabbing a flag.

"When the students first saw the super climber, they said, 'nope.' With practice and encouragement, they were able to overcome their fears and climb to the top," Metz said.



Photos by Shea Franco



Students display fine and gross motor skills at the annual Preschool Gym and Science Show. Jordan Cutler, top, hits a wiffle ball off a tee, and Quinn Davis scales the Super Climber in the P.E. event at Second Avenue.



Photos by Swati Sharma

Second place was not good enough for Seashore student Abhi Mishra. He missed first by just .5 points in Brazil last summer.

Seashore Student Reps USA In World Chess Tournament

BY Seashore Student Views Staff

Wearing a medal and holding an American flag in one hand and trophy in the other, the only thing missing from Seashore third grader Abhi Mishra was a smile. Most kids would have been happy to earn an international silver medal. Mishra wasn't.

From the photo taken right after the 2017 World Cadet Chess Championship, it appeared that the youngest chess expert in the U.S.A. came in last. For him, anything other than first did not exist. Mishra, who was in first place until the seventh round, finished second to Aren C. Emrikan by only 0.5 points.

"I had it in my hand and then let it go," frustrated Mishra said.

The event was held on August 21 to 31 in Pocos de Caldas, Brazil. Mishra was invited to represent the United States because of his rank.

There were 11 rounds. There were 72 players competing. There was a lot of pressure.

"I was nervous the last few rounds," Mishra said.

Abhi Mishra now has a lot to smile about. He made history by becoming the youngest US Chess Master ever on April 22.

"It was very good, but not the best experience for me. It wasn't good to come in second."

After the interview, Mishra headed to Hamilton Eastern Chess Conference. "I'm going to win," he said.

Breaking News

Mishra Makes History As USA's Youngest Chess Master Ever And Highest Rated Nine Year Old In World

BY Audrey Franco, 4th Grade

Abhimanyu "Abhi" Mishra has a completely different look on his face now. The Seashore third grader made history April 22, becoming the youngest US Chess Master ever. Mishra broke the magic 2,200 barrier at the age of nine years, two months and 17 days, surpassing the previous record held by Liran Zhou, who was nine years, three months and 22 days old. He secured the title at the South Jersey Chess Club Action Quad in Marlton, NJ. In addition, the chess prodigy broke Bobby Fischer's record becoming the highest rated nine year old in the world.



Photo by Audrey Franco

First Graders ROCK At BIG GIG

BY Daniel Pardini, 4th Grade

Seashore first graders Mary Cate Leidersdorff and Semaj Vanzant performed with their band East Coast Music as part of the Big Gig at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park on January 27. Owner of Lake House Music John Leidersdorff arranged to have the band participate in the event.

According to (Mary Cate) Leidersdorff, the band of six to eight year olds has been together for a year. They played *Believer* by Magic Dragons, *Galway Girl* by Ed Sheerin and *Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley.

"There were at least 38 people there," she said.

"I have done this so many times, I wasn't nervous at all," the six year-old bass, drummer and lead singer of the band said. "I started singing when I was three. I took vocal and drum lessons. Then, I taught myself how to play the bass."

East Coast Music also performed at the House of Independents Big Gig September 8.

"We play in the Big Gig two or three times a year," Leidersdorff said.

Rocking At BIG GIG. First graders Mary Cate Leidersdorff and Semaj Vanzant entertain audiences at the Big Gig in Asbury Park September 8 and January 27.

Seashore Alum Voted Shore's Greatest

BY Daniel Pardini, 4th Grade

Super Bowl hero Phil Villapiano, who grew up at Seashore Day Camp and went on to play for the Oakland Raiders and Buffalo Bills, was named the Jersey Shore's Greatest Sports Personality of the last 50 years in an online contest held by Shore Sports Network.

The former football great beat out baseball's Todd Frazier, who currently plays third base for the New York Mets.

"I am very proud of my brother for his accomplishments. Phil was a great football player and is an even better person," Principal John Villapiano said.

"The funny thing is Phil's first sport was soccer because there were no youth football teams in Asbury when we were kids," (John) Villapiano said.

Villapiano is best known for

the nine years he played for the Raiders. He was the league's Rookie of the Year and a four-time Pro Bowl selection, while helping Oakland win the Super Bowl.

Last month, Villapiano was also named to the Senior Bowl Hall of Fame and is currently being considered for the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the Senior Committee.

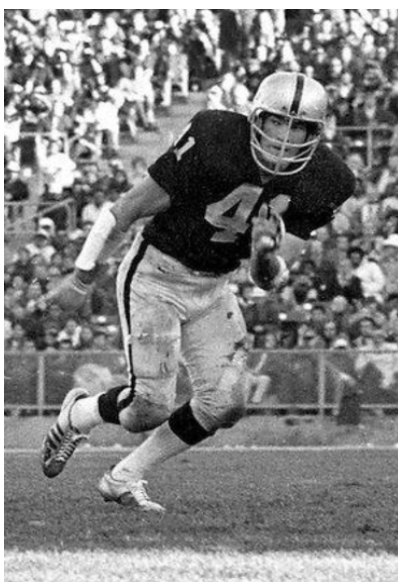


Photo used with permission from Phil Villapiano

In addition to sports, he has earned a reputation for his engaging personality, sense of humor and commitment to his community.

Villapiano raised millions of dollars in the battle against ALS and Muscular Dystrophy, and was a leader in helping people and businesses that suffered losses during Superstorm Sandy.

"Wherever I go, I tell people I live at the Jersey Shore and will never leave," Villapiano said

adding that he loves the title that comes with this honor and will do his best to live up to it.

"Thanks to all those who voted for me from my family and friends of my Shore roots in Asbury Park, Ocean Township, Rumson and Seashore Day Camp. To those who supported me through my playing days at Bowling Green State University, the Raiders, the Bills and beyond, I love you all right back," he said.

Help induct Coach Phil Villapiano into the Pro Football Hall of Fame by filling out Care2 Petitions on thepetitionsite.com, which is on Seashore Day Camp and School's facebook page.



Photo used with permission from Phil Villapiano

Top: Phil Villapiano, who is currently being considered for the Pro Football Hall Of Fame, drops back into pass coverage to help the Raiders win Super Bowl XI. Left: Phil Villapiano waves to crowd after big win. Right: After being named the Jersey Shore's Greatest Sports Personality of the last 50 years, Kevin Williams from Shore Sports Network presents Phil Villapiano with a plaque following a radio broadcast on WOBN May 29.



Photo used with permission from Phil Villapiano

Bertan Takes Team To Victory At MetLife



Photo By Hubert Cutolo

Johnny Bertan runs to score one of three touchdowns leading his team to victory at MetLife on October 28.

BY Audrey Franco, 4th Grade, and Wes Rivingston, 4th Grade

Seashore fourth grader Johnny Bertan scored three touchdowns in the pouring rain on October 28 at MetLife Stadium. In 40 degree weather that felt more like 20, his team, the Howell Rebels, beat Manalapan 21 nothing.

"We were the first seed and the first seed gets to play at MetLife," he said.

According to Bertan, since the field was drenched, the game was postponed 15 minutes until the grounds crew could dry it.

"Playing was a challenge. The ball was wet and hard to hold onto," he said. "I juiced five players and was the only person to score," he added.

While there, Bertan met the Jets' tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins and quarterback Josh McCown.

"I felt so cool to meet the Jets," Bertan said. "I want to play like them and be like them."

HEAD OVER HEELS Bowden Wins First At Rutgers

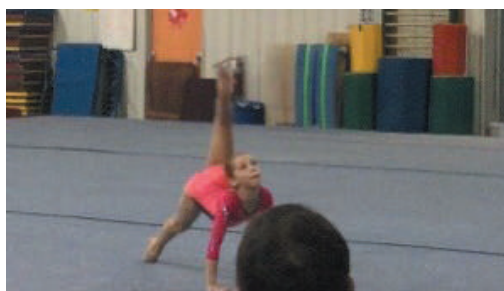
BY Tyler Bowden, 5th Grade

Competing against 45 gymnasts, Jayda Bowden, a Seashore fifth grader, took home three first place medals in the Rutgers Classic Gymnastics Meet on February 24. After practicing four hours a day, four days a week, she achieved 9.4 on bars, 9.65 on beam and 36.8 all around.

"I am proud of my performance and excited about my win," Bowden said. "My highest score in a competition was a 9.75 in vault."

Bowden started gymnastics at the age of six.

"I started climbing around the house and my mom enrolled me in gymnastics at Head over Heels in Parlin," Bowden said. "My favorite event is bars because I love doing giants."



Jayda Bowden wins gold, beating out 45 gymnasts at Rutgers. She took first in four out of the five events in the competition.



Photos by Tyler Bowden