



NOTEBOOK

BAYPORT

LEGO award

A robotics team from Academy Street Elementary School in Bayport, the Lion Bots (Team 3643), recently won second place in the research category at the 2013 North American Open Championship Tournament at LEGOLAND in California.

This year's challenge required teams to design and build robots that could handle tasks faced by senior citizens, such as retrieving pill bottles and reaching switches.

The Lion Bots were invited to the tournament after receiving second place for the Champion's Award this spring in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Championship at Longwood High School in Middle Island.

ST. JAMES

Interim head of school

Joseph Ferber has been appointed interim head of school at Harbor Country Day School, a private school for preschool through eighth grade, replacing James Young. Ferber has more than 50 years of experience in education and most recently served as interim head of school at Newton Montessori School in Massachusetts.

MIDDLE ISLAND

Peace essay winner

Andrew Mok, a freshman at Longwood High School, recently was named the New York State winner of the United States Institute for Peace's 2012-13 National Essay Contest for his essay, titled "The Fight for Gender Equality and Peace: The Egyptian Revolution and Iraq War."

He won a \$1,000 scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip this month to Washington, D.C.

ROCKY POINT

Walking for a cure

Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School recently raised more than \$12,000 — the school's highest total ever — for the American Cancer Society through a Mini-Relay for Life that attracted more than 340 students, staff and community members to the school's track for a 90-minute walk.

the school's biggest fundraiser, collecting a total of \$3,110.

The school has raised more than \$42,000 over the past five years through the annual event.

ISLANDWIDE

Schools make the list

Dozens of Long Island schools made a list last month of the nation's 2,000 best public high schools by Newsweek and The Daily Beast. The list was based on the schools' ability to produce college-ready graduates and considered factors ranging from graduation rates to the percentage of pupils in Advanced Placement courses.

Long Island's highest-ranked high school was Jericho at the 32nd spot. Other top local high schools and their rankings were: Great Neck South, 67; Manhasset, 75; The Wheatley School in Old Westbury, 92; Syosset, 104; Cold Spring Harbor, 119; Garden City, 139; Locust Valley, 145; Harborfields in Greenlawn, 151; Hericks, 177; Great Neck North, 181; Half Hollow Hills West in Dix Hills, 248; Paul D. Schreiber in Port Washington, 264; John F. Kennedy in Bellmore, 268; Elwood-John H. Glenn, 277; Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK, 278; Hewlett-Woodmere, 303; South Side in Rockville Centre, 312; Half Hollow Hills East in Dix Hills, 314; Bethpage, 353; Commack, 355; Sanford H. Calhoun in Merrick, 360; Floral Park, 384; Oyster Bay, 425; North Shore in Glen Head, 433; Valley Stream South 440; Oceanside,

WAY TO GO! Tiffany Rigole

Literally taking strides to help kids with illnesses

A South Huntington teenager was the top student fundraiser in an annual event that raised money for local children who are battling illness.



Tiffany Rigole, a junior at St. Anthony's High School, was part of a team last month that raised \$10,255 in

the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island's Walk of Love 2013, a 5K walk at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow. Rigole alone raised \$4,395.

Rigole, 17, was part of the walk team for Kids Stock the House, a nonprofit that supports families of sick kids staying at the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park as they receive treat-

ment at area hospitals.

"I want to give back and help other kids who are struggling," Rigole said. Of the walk on that rainy-day walk, she said, "When I got drenched, I thought of those innocent kids . . . and that became my driving force to take the steps to cross the finish line."

Rigole was honored at the event with a "certificate of love" by the Ronald McDonald House's board of directors and a Putting Your Best Foot Forward Leadership Award from Donna Christina Oliverio, director of Kids Stock the House.

"Much more than the monetary donations Tiffany raised, she put her heart into helping families battling serious medical illnesses," Oliverio said. "And you can't put a price tag on that type of wonderful gift."

— MICHAEL R. EBERT

NOMINATE a student for Way to Go! Send details and a photograph (photos cannot be returned and may be used in other publications affiliated with Newsday) to Michael Ebert, Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747 or email michael.ebert@newsday.com. Photos sent by email should be high-resolution images.