

## *2010 Pre-Prom Gala to be Held at the new LaGrange*

This year's Pre-Prom Party, held immediately prior to the Senior Prom, will be hosted by the school district and the High School PTSA on Thursday, June 24, from 4:30-6 p.m., at the newly renovated LaGrange. The new owners have donated the use of the facility.

West Islip's 3rd annual Pre-Prom Party was held at LaGrange and provided the perfect venue for the graduating class, family members, school administrators, and friends to congratulate the Class of 2007 and take group photos.

Three years later, the high school is returning to LaGrange to take photographs with members of the Class of 2010 in their formal attire as they prepare to head to East Wind in Wading River for the big event.

There will be music at LaGrange, provided by Vincent Luvera and VJ Entertainment, courtesy of COMPASS of West Islip, which also provided postage for the invitations that were donated by Andre Coiro of Tritone Graphics, as he has done in the past. School district officials also thank John Corrado of Suffolk Transportation for his generous donation, used to purchase prizes that will be awarded during the Senior Prom. Raffle tickets for those prizes - which include IPODs, DVD players and digital cameras, will be available only during the Pre-Prom Party. Many thanks to Charles Gandolfo of Dynasty Limousines for his donation of a six-passenger limo with driver for the evening, which was won in a raffle at a Board of Education meeting by senior Bryan D.

Limos may pick up the party-goers at LaGrange, say Pre-Prom Party Co-Chairs Sharon Biesel and Cheryl Burr, or at students' homes.

On hand at LaGrange will be Superintendent of Schools Dr. Beth Virginia Blau, who created the first annual Pre-Prom Party in 2005. This year's event will be her last as she is retiring this summer.

## *Top Three Reasons to Attend the Pre-Prom Party*

3. Every senior who attends will receive a raffle ticket for a prize at the Senior Prom.
2. Parents don't have to plan and pay for home parties or risk social host liabilities.
1. Everyone will see what you're wearing.

## Why Do Some Parents Allow High School Students to Drink Alcohol?

There is a new sign in the community, courtesy of COMPASS of West Islip, reports Coordinator John Mullins, who is also principal of Kirdahy Elementary School at Captree. The message is: Serve Minors at your own Risk.



The sign, such as the one shown above in front of the West Islip Public Library, is referring to the New York State Penal Law that prohibits parents or guardians from serving alcohol in their homes to young people under the age of 21. Legislators agree that an intoxicated minor leaving a house poses just as much a threat to other drivers and pedestrians as the intoxicated driver who leaves a bar or restaurant and gets behind the wheel of a vehicle.

The above headline creates a bewildering and frustrating question for the majority of West Islip parents. The answer, according to the American Medical Association's Office of Alcohol & Drug Abuse, is that some parents seek the approval of their teens and want to be their friend. "It astounds me that parents think that as long as they are serving the alcohol, they can control their kid's - and their friends' - actions," says AMA Director Richard Yoast. "Some parents actually think that teen pre- and post-prom drinking is a rite of passage." Parents need to remember that as social hosts they are placing themselves in jeopardy, both legally and financially, when they permit underage drinking to take place in their homes or on their property.

## West Islip School District

Freyer Administration Bldg.  
100 Sherman Avenue  
West Islip, NY 11795

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*Editor - Nancy M. Lenz*



## West Islip Health & Wellness Newsletter



### COMPASS of West Islip is Honored

**L**et's build healthier communities is the mantra of the Suffolk Coalition to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Dependencies (SCPADD), located in Hauppauge. On May 21, 2010, the Honorable Madeleine A. Fitzgibbon, Presiding Judge of the Suffolk County Drug Treatment Court and Mental Health Court, and Carlton Hall, Senior Manager of Training and Technical Assistance for Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, National Coalition Institute, joined with about 75 community coalition partners to honor West Islip COMPASS (COM, PARENTS, SCHOOLS, STUDENTS) for its hard work, community outreach, and many successful endeavors.

Judge Fitzgibbon told the audience, "We have to be the apostles in our own community. Many people who become addicts come from nice homes and solid communities. It's perplexing how they move into alcohol and drug addiction. Young people need all the information we can provide them with and I applaud these school district representatives who are so concerned and caring about the children. It all comes down to safety for students, and that includes educating them about the dangers of bullying and cyberbullying."

On behalf of the West Islip School District and West Islip COMPASS Coordinator John Mullins, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Louis Zocchia said, "Success depends on partnerships with parents. What happens after 3:30 p.m. on school days is crucial. COMPASS has assisted West Islip in providing activities that our young people enjoy and learn from, and the means by which to get the messages out. The school district is grateful."

### COMPASS of West Islip Mission Statement

**COMPASS strives to inspire the West Islip community to mobilize, unify and coordinate its resources to ensure the health and well-being of all residents. COMPASS unites to reduce substance abuse among youth, create a strong collaboration within the community, and cultivate healthy attitudes and behaviors.**



**W**.I. COMPASS representatives High School Administrative Dean Joann Hilbert (left), teacher Denise Robertson (holding certificate of achievement), Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Louis Zocchia (holding award) and District Spokesperson Nancy Lenz (to his left) pose with guest speakers Judge Madeleine Fitzgibbon (center) and Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America representative Carlton Hall (to her right). With them is Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Director Maryann Pfeifer.

Below: West Islip COMPASS set up a display table at the ceremony.



