



LEAPS

LEARNING, ENRICHMENT, AFTER-SCHOOL SUPPORT



NEWSLETTER



THE SUN IS SHINING AND WE'RE OUTSIDE!

By Matthew Drangland

Spring has finally arrived at the LEAPS After-School Program, and our students have been excited to spend more time outdoors enjoying the warmer weather. Over the past few weeks, students have participated in a variety of fun and engaging activities that encourage teamwork, learning, and community involvement.

One of the highlights has been Soccer Team, where students have been practicing their skills, staying active, and building confidence on the field. Another popular activity has been Automotive Maintenance, giving students hands-on opportunities to learn practical skills while working together outdoors.

We were also excited to welcome members of the SCPD for special visits with our students. These visits gave students a chance to interact with local officers, ask questions, and strengthen positive community connections in a fun and supportive environment.

As spring continues, we look forward to even more outdoor activities, fresh air, and memorable experiences together at LEAPS!



A LITTLE BIT OF OUTSIDE, INSIDE

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND BONDING

by, Ms. Ericka Carey

This spring, the LEAPS Arts and Crafts Club has been hard at work creating colorful pipe cleaner flowers to brighten up the Professional Learning Center. The students wanted to show their appreciation for being able to use the PLC room throughout the school year, where teachers participate in professional development and learning opportunities.

Using creativity, teamwork, and lots of bright colors, students carefully designed handmade flowers to decorate the space and bring a touch of spring indoors. The project gave students a chance to express their gratitude while also sharing their artistic talents with the school community.

LEAPS is incredibly thankful for the continued support and generosity of the Professional Learning Center, and our students were proud to give back in such a thoughtful and creative way. The cheerful decorations have helped make the space feel even more welcoming for everyone who visits.



DID YOU KNOW?

We facilitate Academic Hour (5x per week) from 2:42pm to 3:42pm where students can complete any homework, projects, or reading. We also serve a healthy snack and perform daily health and emotional checks. From 3:42pm until dismissal, we provide a comprehensive list of clubs and workshops. Clubs/workshops include but are not limited to: Arts & Crafts, Board Games, Spanish Club, Culinary Arts, Peer Mediation, Student Advisory Board, Community Service Club, Talent Show, STEM Club, Self-Care Club, and Sports Club

CHEF OWENS VISITS LEAPS

SKILL BUILDING AND SAFE SPACES

By. Matthew Drangland

The LEAPS After-School Program recently hosted a special visit that blended life skills with hands-on learning in a truly memorable way. Our students had the opportunity to learn from Chef Keith Owens, a professional chef and Master of Social Work, who brought both culinary expertise and meaningful guidance to the classroom.

During the session, Chef Owens introduced students to the fundamentals of cooking by guiding them through the preparation of chicken fajitas. Each student was equipped with their own burner and cooking station, creating an engaging, interactive environment that encouraged independence and confidence. From slicing peppers to seasoning chicken, students took pride in preparing their own meals from start to finish.

Beyond the kitchen skills, Chef Owens shared an equally important lesson: the value of maintaining a trusted circle of friends and keeping open lines of communication. As students cooked, he facilitated thoughtful conversations about trust, support systems, and the importance of expressing feelings in healthy ways. This unique combination of social-emotional learning and practical skill-building created a well-rounded experience that resonated with everyone involved.



COOKING AND LEARNING WITH CHEF OWENS

The day concluded with students enjoying the delicious fajitas they had prepared themselves—an accomplishment that left them feeling both proud and empowered. Experiences like this highlight the LEAPS Program's commitment to nurturing the whole child, combining education, creativity, and personal growth.

We are grateful to Chef Keith Owens for inspiring our students and providing them with skills they can carry both in and out of the kitchen.



LEAPS SOCCER TEAM

BELONGING AND MEMBERSHIP, SKILL BUILDING

by, Mia Bercian

The LEAPS Soccer Team is kicking off its second year with renewed energy, determination, and leadership. After building a strong foundation in their inaugural season, the team is ready to take their game to the next level.

Now led by Coach Chris, students have been working hard to sharpen their skills, strengthen teamwork, and build confidence on the field. Practices have been filled with drills, strategy sessions, and plenty of enthusiasm as players prepare for the season ahead.

With friendly rivalries already forming, the team has its sights set on competing against the other schools in the league—Saxton and South Ocean. Players are motivated not only to improve their performance but also to represent LEAPS with pride, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

As the season begins, excitement is building among both players and supporters. The LEAPS community looks forward to cheering on the team and celebrating their growth and achievements throughout the season.

We wish Coach Chris and all our student-athletes the best of luck in what promises to be an exciting and competitive second year!





AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE

SKILL BUILDING

by, Keisy Adames

The LEAPS After-School Program recently welcomed a special guest, Mr. Giovanni, who brought hands-on learning and real-world skills to our students through an engaging workshop on automotive maintenance.

Students had the unique opportunity to step outside the classroom and into the parking lot, where Mr. Giovanni demonstrated essential car care techniques. One of the highlights of the session was learning how to safely change a tire. With guidance and encouragement, students observed each step of the process—from properly positioning a jack to loosening lug nuts and securing a spare tire. For many, it was their first time seeing this done in person, making the experience both exciting and empowering.

In addition to the tire-changing demonstration, Mr. Giovanni introduced students to the different parts of a car. He explained the basic functions of key components under the hood and around the vehicle, helping students build a foundational understanding of how cars operate. His interactive teaching style encouraged curiosity, and students eagerly asked questions and shared their own experiences.

This workshop not only provided practical knowledge but also helped students develop confidence in handling everyday challenges. Learning these life skills at a young age can foster independence and problem-solving abilities that extend far beyond the classroom.

We are grateful to Mr. Giovanni for sharing his time and expertise with our students. Experiences like this continue to make the LEAPS After-School Program a place where learning comes to life in meaningful and memorable ways.



THINK WELLNESS NY PARTNERS WITH LEAPS

ACCESS TO AGE APPROPRIATE SERVICES

by, Ericka Carey

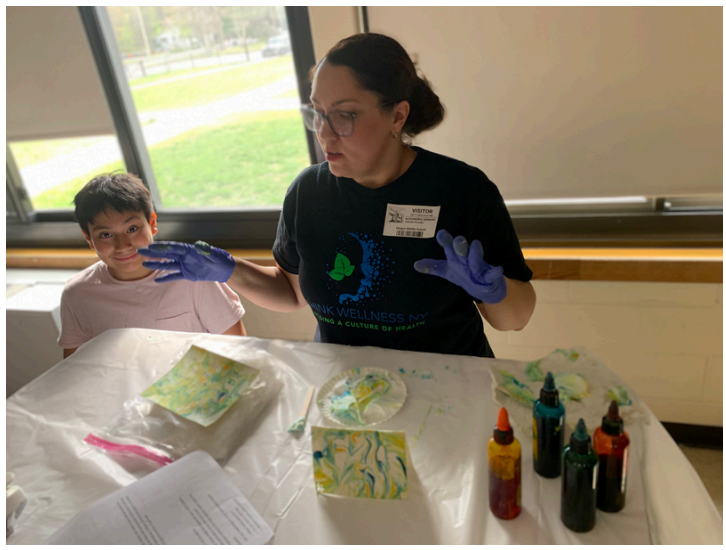
Students in our LEAPS After-School Program recently had the exciting opportunity to participate in a series of creative wellness workshops led by ThinkWellness NY. These sessions blended art, mindfulness, and self-expression, giving students a chance to explore their creativity while learning about personal well-being in a fun and engaging way.

Throughout the program, students dove into hands-on projects that encouraged both imagination and reflection. One highlight was marble art, where students used shaving cream and food coloring to create vibrant, swirling designs. This activity not only sparked creativity but also invited students to slow down and enjoy the sensory experience.

Another meaningful project involved creating vision boards. Students thoughtfully selected images, words, and colors that represented their goals, dreams, and values. This exercise encouraged them to think about their futures and express what matters most to them in a visual and personal way.

In addition, students experimented with bubble art, using food coloring mixed into bubbles to form unique, colorful patterns on paper. The process was both playful and calming, reinforcing the idea that creativity can be a powerful tool for relaxation and self-care.

The partnership with ThinkWellness NY provided our students with a valuable opportunity to connect art and wellness. These workshops not only fostered creativity but also helped students build mindfulness skills and express themselves in new ways. We are grateful for this enriching experience and look forward to bringing more programs like this to our LEAPS community.



5TH PRECINCT JOINS LEAPS!

BELONGING AND MEMBERSHIP - HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND BONDING

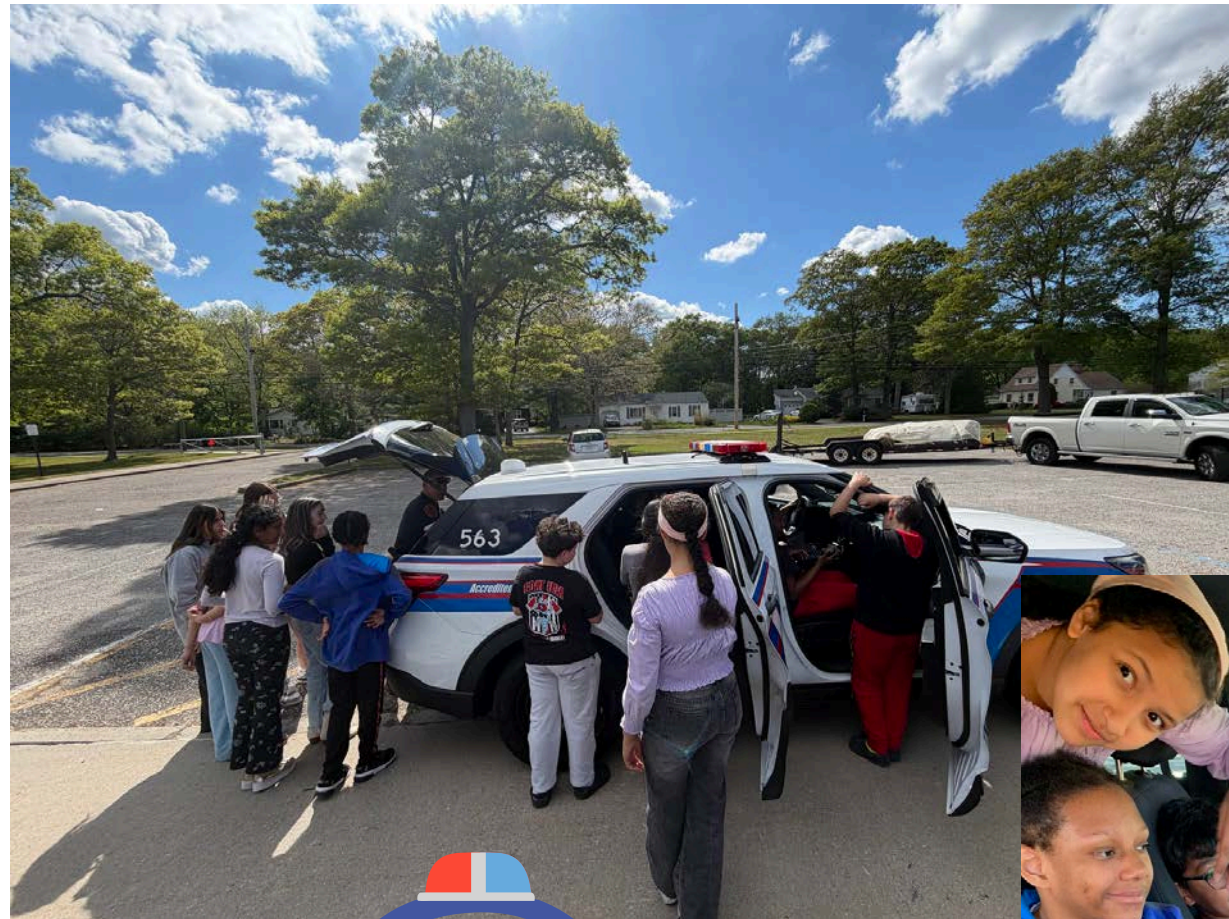
by, Markus Smith

Our LEAPS afterschool program recently welcomed Officers Maio and Raspanti from the Suffolk County Police Department's 5th Precinct for a fun and engaging visit with students.

During their time with the program, the officers gave students an up-close look at a police cruiser and explained some of the important tools and equipment officers use to help keep the community safe. Students were excited to explore the vehicle, ask questions, and learn more about the work police officers do each day.

The visit also included some friendly basketball games, where students had the opportunity to play alongside Officers Maio and Raspanti. The games created lots of smiles, laughter, and teamwork while helping students build positive connections with local law enforcement officers in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

We are grateful to Officers Maio and Raspanti for taking the time to visit our program and create such a memorable experience for our students. Their kindness, energy, and willingness to connect with our youth made the day both educational and fun for everyone involved.



LEAPS AT “USING OUR VOICES” RUN

BELONGING AND MEMBERSHIP - HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND BONDING

by, Markus Smith

Students from the LEAPS afterschool program recently participated in the “Using Our Voices” Run for Mental Health, partially sponsored by Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., the host agency for our program. The event brought together community members to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and supporting one another through kindness, understanding, and positive connections.

Our LEAPS students proudly contributed to the event by preparing thoughtful goodie bags for participants. The bags included drink mixes, positive message buttons, and special handmade crafts featuring frogs on lily pads in honor of LEAPS. The students worked hard to create items that would encourage smiles, positivity, and a sense of community among runners and attendees.

This meaningful experience allowed students to give back while learning about the importance of mental health awareness and using their voices to spread encouragement and support. We are incredibly proud of our students for representing LEAPS with creativity, compassion, and teamwork.

Thank you to Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. for sponsoring this important community event and for continuing to support opportunities that inspire our students to make a positive impact.





REMINDER

Permission Slips for the 2025-2026 school year are available!
Scan the QR Code or visit the
Main Office for a copy!

¡Ya están disponibles los permisos para el año escolar 2025-2026! Escanee el código QR o visite la oficina principal para obtener una copia.



**SCAN FOR LEAPS
PERMISSION SLIPS!**

**¡ESCANEA PARA
OBTENER LOS
PERMISOS DE LEAPS!**

tinyurl.com/leaps2026



THE VIBES CLUB

at LEAPS

5 Days Per week from 3pm to 5pm

Come do Arts & Crafts, play Board Games, or finish up some homework while we turn the lights down and put on some chill music.

5 días por semana de 3pm a 5pm

Ven a hacer manualidades, jugar juegos de mesa o terminar algunos deberes mientras apagamos las luces y ponemos música relajante.



Did You Know?



THE SPORTS CLUB

at LEAPS

5 Days Per week from 3:15pm to 5pm

Come get some fresh air and play some sports before heading home for the day!

5 días por semana de 3:15pm a 5pm

¡Ven a tomar aire fresco y practicar algunos deportes antes de regresar a casa por el día!



ABOUT US

- ✓ Promote goal of self-sufficiency
- ✓ Broaden minds of children
- ✓ Revitalize communities
- ✓ Assist families and children in need



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EOC envisions an agency with the capacity to adapt and accommodate the changing need of the communities we serve.

The Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc (EOC) is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) minority community based organization (CBO) incorporated in the State of New York on May 5, 1967. The EOC of Suffolk, Inc is Suffolk County's designated community action agency, recipient of the Federal Community Service Block Grant, which supports activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals receiving assistance under part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act.

Our mission is to promote a goal of self-sufficiency by broadening the minds of children, revitalizing communities, and assisting families and children in need through the provision of services and to coordinate available federal, state, local and private resources.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED AT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL OF SUFFOLK, INC. - BE SURE TO VISIT EOC-SUFFOLK.COM FOR DETAILS.

Chronic Health Care Coordination Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

Community Based Initiative SNUG Violence Prevention

Corporate Compliance Program Suffolk County Court Children's Nursery

Family Development Supportive Services for Veteran Families

HIV/AIDS/HIV(-) Targeted Prevention & Support Way To Grow Child Care Learning Center

Housing Programs Wyandanch Weed and Seed

HUD COC Rapid Rehousing Program Youth & Adolescent Services