



Photo courtesy of Edison Intermediate School  
**CYBER ROBOTICS...Edison eighth grader Catherine Collins, pictured left, and Gabriela Gil placed third in the 2018 New Jersey Cyber Robotics Coding Competition Finals on December 14 at New Jersey Institute of Technology.**

## Edison 8th Graders Compete in Cyber Robotics

WESTFIELD — Four eighth graders at Edison Intermediate School (EIS) recently competed in teams of two as finalists in the 2018 New Jersey Cyber Robotics Competition at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark, with one of the teams placing third in the state coding championship.

"Mrs. Paiva and I introduced our Grade 8 Project Technology students to Cyber Robotics Coding, using CoderZ online challenges provided by Intelitek," said Eugene Ehrlich who, with Laura Paiva, teaches computer technology at EIS. "CoderZ is an online learning environment that provides students with mission-based Cyber Robotics Coding challenges of progressive difficulty levels which guide students through more demanding coding tasks."

"I am very proud to report that the EIS1 Team of Catherine Collins and Gabriela Gil received the 3rd Place Cyber Robotics Coding Competition 2018 Championship Award for New Jersey," said Mr. Ehrlich.

By learning to program a virtual, 3D animated robot while planning and strategizing the virtual robot to participate in challenges, "students compete within their class, grade, school, district and state to win stages and progress to the finals," according to the organization's website.

Project Technology students Catherine Collins, Maya Dias, Gabriela Gil and Aaron Richman advanced to the finals in the CoderZ online challenges and were invited to participate in two-person teams in the state championship competition at NJIT on December 14.

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## Washington School's Play Happily Ever After On Sale

WESTFIELD -- Washington School will present Happily Ever After, an original production, written by Anthony Tessitore that is sure to be a crowd pleaser for all those young at heart.

The show follows the efforts of Jake Grimm and Bev Cleary, two junior librarians and icons from children's literature, who join forces with familiar heroes from Fantasia to stop an evil plot to "renovate" Westfield's library by getting rid of its famous fantasy and fairytale stories. Our heroes know that whether it be a cranky princess, an innocent child, a heroic beast or even a wicked witch, our fairy-tale characters help us teach important lessons and explain the world in a way that's universal and binds us across generations. These stories must be cherished and protected. You'll meet characters fa-

miliar to one and all along a magical journey to save our classic fairytales and stories of fantasy and magic.

Not only is the show written by a parent, it's also directed, choreographed, produced and performed solely by parents, with the exception of the ever-popular teachers' dance number. This family-friendly musical is the PTO's largest fundraiser each year, raising funds for resources in the classrooms, teacher grants, school enhancements and additional programs to enrich the educational environment for the school's 300-plus students.

Performances are Friday, January 25, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, January 26, at 1:30 and 7 p.m. at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street in Westfield. Tickets are \$14.50 and can be purchased from <https://wes.booktix.com/>.

## UC Night at the Theater Grants Awarded

COUNTY – Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood high schools are among the schools in the county which received grants to support theatre productions. The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced the recipients of the new UC Night at the Theater grant. As part of Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados's "Moving UNION COUNTY Forward" initiatives, the new program aims to help cover the costs of high school theatre productions and provide arts enrichment for the community at large.

"The Freeholder Board is pleased to see so many talented high school students and theatre provides many avenues of endeavor to pursue, whether onstage or behind the scenes," said Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados. "It is our hope that these grants will assist our schools in expanding and enhancing these enriching opportunities for students, while engaging more residents in the performing arts as well."

Over \$26,000 in grants were awarded to help cover the costs of high school theatre productions slated for the spring or fall of 2019. The UC Night at the Theater program is funded through Moving Union County forward in conjunction with the Union County Open Space, Historic Preservation and Kids Recreation Trust Fund.

"UC Night at the Theater grants will help youths in Union County explore their interests and share their

enthusiasm with family, friends and neighbors. This program not only provides resources for high school students to pursue their creative interests but also encourages the attendance of their local communities in support of these productions," said Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, who is Chairman of the Trust Fund.

The following is a list of those which received grants:

Elizabeth: Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, \$1,750; Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, \$1,750.

Hillside: Hillside Public High Schools, \$1,750; Benedictine Academy, \$1,750.

Kenilworth: David Brearley High School, \$1,750.

Linden: Linden High School, \$1,750.

New Providence: New Providence High School, \$1,750.

Plainfield: Academy for the Arts & Advanced Studies, \$1,750.

Rahway: Rahway High School, \$1,750.

Roselle: Abraham Clark High School, \$1,750.

Scotch Plains: Academy of Performing Arts, \$1,750; Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School: \$1,750.

Summit: Summit High School, \$1,750.

Springfield: Jonathan Dayton High School, \$1,750.

Westfield: Westfield High School, \$1,750.

## Westfield DAR Announces Student Sewing Contest

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a member of the national organization (NSDAR), will collaborate on a fashion competition with Urban Sewciety, a sewing shop in Westfield.

Students, grades 5 to 12, from the shop are eligible to participate this month by entering garments they have created. The Westfield Chapter will award first-, second- and third-place winners. Winners from the local competition will be submitted for the New Jersey state awards. The deadline for entries is Thursday, January 31.

There will be two divisions: Junior, having less than two years of sewing, and Senior, having two or more years of sewing. Two categories to enter will be American history period wear or Fashion entries, which can include separates, simple ensembles, dresses, jackets/outerwear or party/prom garments. Judging will consider quality of construction, creativity, difficulty and selection of pattern and materials.

The registration form, three digital photographs and a copy of the entry pattern can be submitted to Fashion Competition Chairwoman Diana Kazazis at [Diana.kazazis@gmail.com](mailto:Diana.kazazis@gmail.com)

or contestant registration can be facilitated at the shop by pre-arrangement. Registration forms are available by e-mail from [UrbanSewciety](mailto:UrbanSewciety) or by contacting Ms. Kazazis for forms and information.

The National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), with a membership of more than 900,000 women, is a national volunteer service organization based on lineage to someone who fought or gave aid to the American Revolution. The Westfield Chapter serves veterans at the American Legion and the Menlo Park and Lyons Hospital veterans' facilities. If interested in being a member of the Westfield Chapter, contact Lisa Kane for information at [ljoka@verizon.net](mailto:ljoka@verizon.net).

### Lambert Named University Scholar

FANWOOD — Rachel Lambert, of Fanwood, is among the 265 students recently honored as University Scholars at Susquehanna University.

The annual Scholars Program was held on October 26 in Susquehanna's Stretansky Concert Hall to recognize and congratulate Susquehanna's most successful student scholars. To be named a University Scholar, students must have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 in full-time study for the past two semesters or equivalent credit hours of part-time study.

Ms. Lambert is an early childhood education major in the Class of 2020. A 2016 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, she is the daughter of Jim and Janet Lambert.

### Jaclyn Winnicki Earns Pharmacy Degree

CRANFORD — Jaclyn Winnicki, of Cranford, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus, located in Madison, has graduated with a DPY in Pharmacy as of May 2018.



**CODING FOR KIDS...**A two-day coding tutorial was designed for School One students during the week of December 10. A representative from Microsoft worked with the students in small group setting to engage them in computer programming. This personalized, hands on experience, provided students in Grades K through 4, the fundamentals of coding in an age appropriate environment. Students were excited to learn different computer languages, build projects with code, and watch their creativity come to life. Lillian, 1<sup>st</sup> grade at School One, pictured at top, is excited to code.

## The Student View

A Column Written by Local High School Students

By ADAM ATTIA

Technology is exciting. It opens up a whole host of new possibilities for the future of our world, each more seemingly impossible than the next. But it is also as dangerous as it is impactful.

Technology is one of the most influential and beneficial advancements in modern history, but it also poses a very dangerous threat to modern society, and one that has gone unnoticed by many. As technology continues to expand as rapidly as it has, the threat of depending on it becomes more and more apparent.

Human civilization has undergone many changes with the passage of time. Early humans learned how to survive on their own with nature as their only resource- they managed to live completely self-sufficiently. However, as their knowledge of the world and the concepts regulating it (science) expanded, they were able to progress to eventually resemble us and our society today. Technology is an aid, a very beneficial and powerful tool to use to help us progress as the first humans did. As we improve technologically our living conditions and capabilities improve.

But it should be something we can live without.

We have grown so accustomed to the addition of technology into the fabric of our society that we are all vulnerable to it.

I feel naked without the presence of my cellphone in my pocket. I'm on it, checking it constantly for texts and emails hundreds of times a day. I get my news from social media, and I am on the internet for hours every day to do my work and stay connected to the digital world. Keeping up with that is exhausting and stressful, but for some reason I still do it, and so do most Americans.

Not only is the average individual like you and I affected by the growing influence of technology, but our infrastructure as a whole is as well because it cannot keep up with the growth of technology. Over 30 years ago, the internet did not exist. Had there been an extended power outage, people could keep doing what they were supposed to do, albeit at a slower pace.

In earlier times, architects and engineers used drafting boards and graphing paper to create the structures that sur-

round us. If people had a question or needed information, they were able to find it in libraries. The stock market could be run using paper and pencil. If a power outage occurred, some people would be able to do their jobs without access to technology for a period of time.

Contrast that with the event that occurred a year ago, at a time when technology has become so entrenched in our lives that so many of us have lost the ability to do anything on our own. In 2017, almost half of the population of Maine was subjected to a power outage that lasted for the better part of one week. The implications of the loss of power were devastating. Businesses had to stop operating because people are either no longer able or no longer willing to work.

The Electric Power Institute estimates that the economic cost of power outages annually is a mind-boggling \$120 billion. A large-scale blackout now would be devastating.

We have begun to rely so much on technology and being able to access it in such a short period of time that technology has started to rule over our lives.

The solution to this problem starts with us. Anyone and everyone can take measures to defend themselves from over-reliance on technology. Use it as a tool and a source of instant information, but do not get addicted. Put away cell phones when you are bored and have nothing to do, and instead go out and enjoy nature and the world around you.

Early humans were able to live and survive by themselves in the wilderness with the aid of nothing else but their instincts and knowledge of the world around them. Can we really do the same today?

### Emily Tinnirella Graduates from ESU

MOUNTAIN SIDE — Emily Tinnirella from Mountainside, received a degree from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania at the Winter Commencement ceremony on December 15, 2018. Ms. Tinnirella earned a B.S. in Hotel Restaurant and Tourism Management.

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