



WILLIAM FLOYD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
of the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley

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## **NATIONAL JR. HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS HOLIDAY HELPERS**

*William Paca National Junior Honor Society members  
assist kindergartens create holiday houses.*

**Mastic Beach, New York** – Twas the last day of school before the winter recess and over at the Tangier Smith Elementary School, kindergartens in Janice Iapaolo’s class eagerly awaited the arrival of the William Paca National Junior Honor Society students, AKA Holiday Helpers.

Each year, the Honor Society members magically become holiday helpers. They spring into action, very lively and quick to assist elementary students in fashioning edible gingerbread houses.

Chapter Advisor Gina Soroush said, “As Honor Society members they are required to perform 3-4 hours of community service per month. They come up with very creative ways to volunteer and give back to the community.” The Honor Society students have participated in a variety of community service projects including recycling, collecting non-perishable items for food pantries, tutoring their peers, and participating in Adopt-a-Family.

Over at Tangier Smith, not a student was stirring, for visions of gingerbread houses danced in their heads. Frosting, graham crackers, mini marshmallows, and an assortment of candies were at the ready. The elementary students knew in a moment, with a flash and a flurry, the Holiday Helpers would be dashing in and they would go straight to work building gingerbread houses with frosting and candy.

Ms. Iapaolo said, “The elementary students really like working with the older kids.” Steven, a student in Ms. Iapaolo’s class seconded that saying, “I’ve made gingerbread houses before, but I like getting help from older people because my house looks better.”

Both the middle school and elementary school students benefit from this interactive experience. The older students gain confidence and have the opportunity to work on their communication and interactive skills. Honor Society students Hannah and Mikaela agreed adding that it just makes them feel good to help people. Hannah said, “There’s a feeling of accomplishment. It’s especially fun working with the little ones.” It was evident from the kindergartener’s smiles that the feeling was mutual.



